cmx

Testarotho

SANBE KEI

2

FLIP IT!!

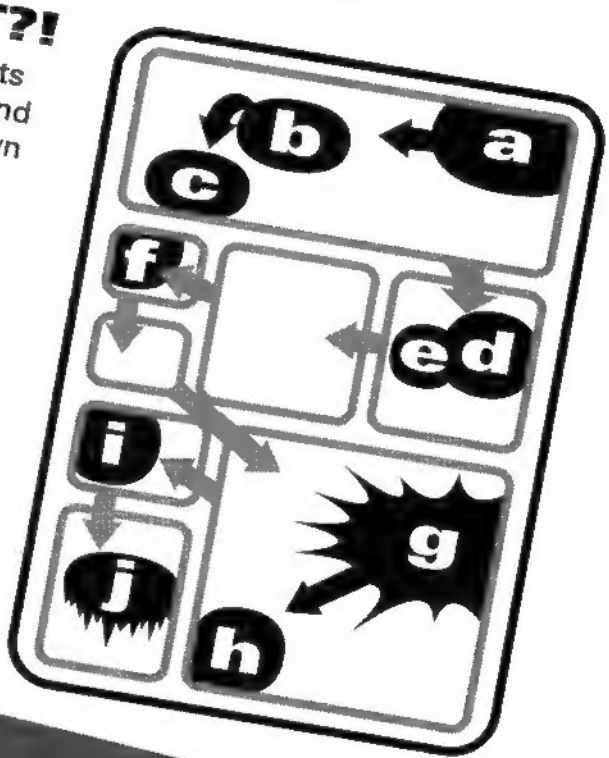
All the pages in this book were created—and are printed here—in Japanese RIGHT-to-LEFT format. No artwork has been reversed, so you can read the stories the way the creators meant for them to be read.

JAPANESE NAMES

Authentic Japanese name order is family name first, given name second. In CMX books we list the names of all characters as well as the manga creators in Japanese order, unless otherwise instructed by the author.

RIGHT TO LEFT?!

Traditional Japanese manga starts at the upper right-hand corner, and moves right-to-left as it goes down the page. Follow this guide for an easy understanding.



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Testarotho

VOLUME 2

By Sanbe Kei

Testarotho

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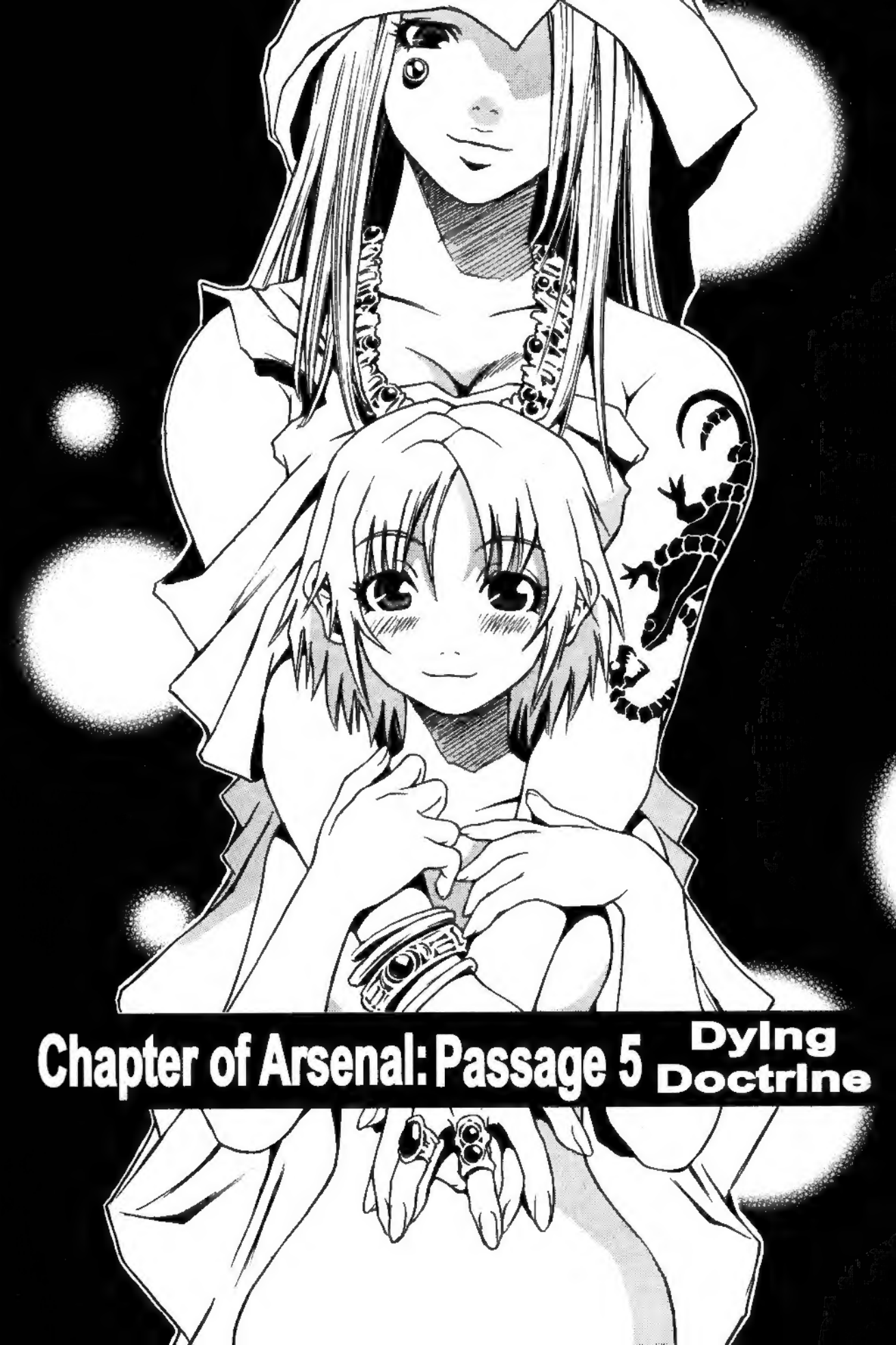


Chapter of Arsenal: Passage 5 Dying Doctrine

RATTLE RATTLE

CLK CLK

SLK

NOT ONLY WERE WE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY WHO THE INTRUDERS WERE...

...BUT WE ALSO COULD NOT COLLECT THEIR CORPSES. THAT SAID...

ACCORDING TO TAROTH LEONEDUS' REPORT...

FWAP

RATTLE RATTLE

CLATTER

RATTLE CLATTER

OPEN THE GATE!

RATTLE CLATTER

...THE COUNCIL HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE INTRUDERS *WERE* MATERIA MEMBERS.
THEREFORE, WE OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZE FULL USE OF FORCE TO ROOT OUT THESE REBELS.
MAESTRO ZAKARO...
...HOW IS THE ARRANGE-MENT WITH GARDEN?
EVERY-THING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
ALL WE NEED NOW IS FOR THE MATERIA MEMBERS TO APPEAR.
OH, I GUARANTEE YOU THAT THEY WILL SHOW UP.
WE'RE SENDING IN *BAIT* THAT THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY REFUSE...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

THESE ARE THE REFUGEES THAT HELPED US BEFORE.
THEY APPEAR TO BE STRIPPED OF ALL OF THEIR VALUABLES...
IT MUST BE THE WORK OF BANDITS.
NO. THIS IS A WARNING TO MATERIA FROM ARSENAL.
"IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP, WE'LL CONTINUE TO KILL."

SAINT CORINTHIAN'S ANGELS ...
... SAINT ARSEN'S EYES ...
... THOSE WHO SING MATERIA ...
... AND THOSE WHO TAKE UP ARMS ...
... THOUGH THEY SHED EACH-OTHER'S BLOOD...
...IT IS THE SAME HEAVEN THEY SEE WHEN THEY LOOK TO THE SKY.
THE BLOOD MOON ...
... FORE-BODES THIS.
THOSE WHO VALUE LOYALTY AND COURAGE WILL BE PUNISHED.
THE ONE WHO WILL "SAVE A SINNER" MUST CLOSE HIS OTHER EYE.
!
...WILL GAIN VERY LITTLE LIGHT.
SNAP
...AND ...
EVERY-ONE WILL LOSE MOST OF WHAT THEY HAVE...

GASP!
LUCICCI...
THIS POOR CHILD...
...WAS ALL ALONE.

.....
ZZZ
SO, OLD MAN.
WHERE IS THIS PROPHECY OF YOURS GOING TO GO DOWN?
IN CORINTHIAN PRINCE BEASLEY'S TERRITORY.
THE TOWN OF SETENBURO IS DENSELY POPULATED ...
...WITH CLOSE TIES TO OUR GROUP.

CLATTER
CLATTER
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CLATTER
CLATTER

SPLUT

SPLUT

...TO THINK THAT THEY WOULD STAND A CHANCE AGAINST OUR TROOPS.

HOW FOOLISH OF THIS RABBLE...

DAMN TESTA-ROTHO!

GIMME BACK MY FAMILY, YOU BASTARDS!

KA-POW

KILL THE ELYSIA!! *

*FOOTNOTE: ELYSIA IS THE ARSENAL TERM FOR HERETIC.

ROOAA

AAAAH!

THEY ARE DRESSED AS MERCHANTS, BUT THEY'RE MOST LIKELY MEMBERS OF TOSTAN.
PERHAPS THEIR VILLAGE IS NEARBY.
MAYBE THEY THOUGHT WE WERE HEADING TO THEIR VILLAGE...
...AND WERE TRYING TO DISTRACT US.
CLUNK
STAGGER...
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE MY DAUGHTER...
I WON'T LET YOU BURN HER AT THE STAKE...
TUG
...NO...
STAGGER...

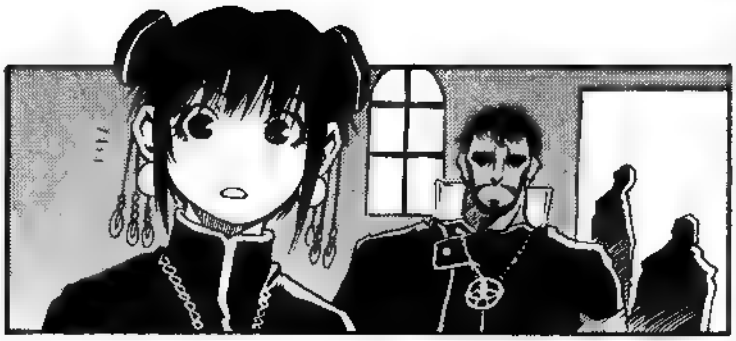
...BUT I WON'T LET YOU HAVE HER!
HUFF
HUFF
...YOU TOOK... MY HUSBAND ...
GA-CHK
!
ELDIUS-
TWITCH...

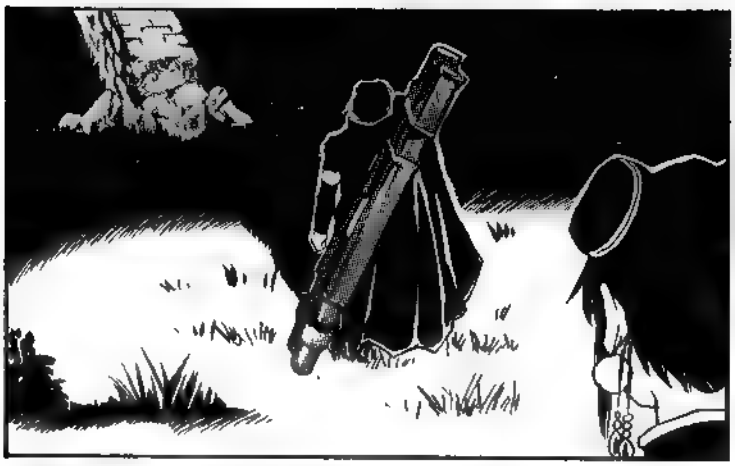
KA
POW

WHAT DID HE HESITATE FOR...?
.....

HUH. . ?

CLAP

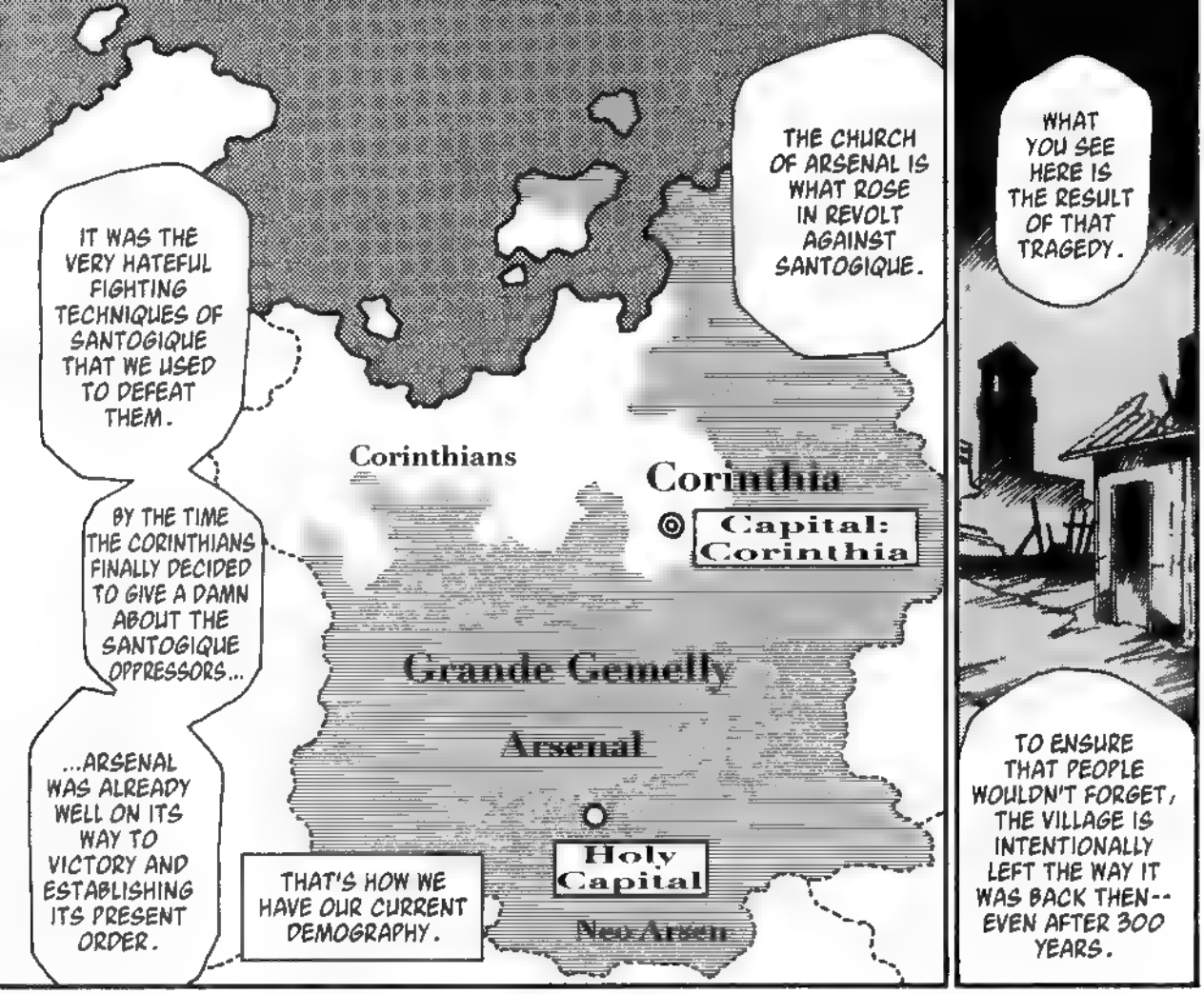




IT'S SUCH AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST...
...FATHER INQUISITOR.
YOUR ROOM AND MEAL ARE READY FOR YOU, FATHER.

THIS VILLAGE WAS NEARLY DESTROYED BECAUSE OF SANTOGIQUE.
CENTURIES AGO, SANTOGIQUE SPREAD PROPAGANDA OF THEIR UTOPIA.
ALL THIS PROPAGANDA ACCOMPLISHED WAS INCITING A WAR OF AGGRESSION.

ALL THE LIGHTS ARE OUT IN THE VILLAGE...
EVERY-ONE THAT'S LEFT HAS GATHERED IN THE CHURCH...


IT WAS THE VERY HATEFUL FIGHTING TECHNIQUES OF SANTOGIQUE THAT WE USED TO DEFEAT THEM.
THE CHURCH OF ARSENAL IS WHAT ROSE IN REVOLT AGAINST SANTOGIQUE.
Corinthians
Corinthia
Capital: Corinthia
BY THE TIME THE CORINTHIANS FINALLY DECIDED TO GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE SANTOGIQUE OPPRESSORS...
Grande Gemelly
Arsenal
Holy Capital
Neo Arsen
...ARSENAL WAS ALREADY WELL ON ITS WAY TO VICTORY AND ESTABLISHING ITS PRESENT ORDER.
THAT'S HOW WE HAVE OUR CURRENT DEMOGRAPHY.
WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS THE RESULT OF THAT TRAGEDY.
TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WOULDN'T FORGET, THE VILLAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT THE WAY IT WAS BACK THEN-- EVEN AFTER 300 YEARS.

...ARSENAL HAS ADOPTED THE VERY PRACTICES WE ONCE FOUGHT AGAINST.
IRONICALLY, TO ACHIEVE THIS...
"UNIFY ELYSIA AND END THE BATTLE."

...IS THE PLACE WHERE GINORA, LEONEDUS AND I GREW UP. THEY CALL IT "THE GARDEN."
THE TRAINING ORGANIZATION WHERE THEY TEACH SANTOGIQUE FIGHTING TECHNIQUES ...

CAPRIA...
...YOU WERE TAUGHT THAT SANTOGIQUE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY ELIMINATED, RIGHT?
BUT, IN REALITY, ITS PINCIPLES HAVE BEEN PASSED ON WITHIN ARSENAL...
...RIGHT IN THE HEART OF SAINT ARSEN'S TEACHING...

THEY SEND ORPHANS FROM POOR VILLAGES THERE.
THE GOAL OF THEIR HARSH TRAINING REGIME...
...IS TO TRAIN STUDENTS TO "KILL BEFORE THEY THINK."
TO DO THIS THEY TRAIN YOU TO NUMB YOUR FEELINGS.
MOST GRADUATES AT GARDEN ARE PROUD OF THE TECHNIQUES THEY LEARNED THERE...
ALSO, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE MEMBERS DON'T HAVE ANY TRUE FAMILY...
...BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE SOME WHOSE BODIES CARRY OUT THEIR TRAINING WHILE THEIR MINDS REMAIN IN DENIAL.
...GARDEN INSTILLS STUDENTS WITH A SENSE OF LOYALTY FOR THEIR NEW "FAMILY."
ABOVE ALL ELSE, THEY TRY TO PROTECT THEIR PEOPLE.
"PLEASE NEVER MENTION WHAT YOU SAW TODAY."
GUARDIANS OF AN INQUISITOR ARE ALWAYS FACING DANGER.
I WONDER IF HE'S TALKING ABOUT LEONEDUS ...?
HESITATION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

...PROTECT HIM?
CAN I...
I HAVE A WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS.
SO, SEEING A VILLAGE WHERE PEOPLE ONCE LAUGHED AND CRIED AND LIVED THEIR LIVES BRINGS OUT STRONG FEELINGS IN ME...
I'VE NEVER HESITATED LIKE THAT...
...IN THE PAST.
YOU WOULD THINK, KNOWING THAT, I WOULDN'T WISH MY LIFE-STYLE ON ANOTHER...
...BUT BECAUSE OF THE RULES, BOTH OF MY DAUGHTERS CURRENTLY ATTEND GARDEN.
...I UNDER-STAND THOSE FEELINGS OF HATRED AND FEAR...
THE REASON LEONEDUS WON'T GET CLOSE TO OTHERS...
...IS BECAUSE OF HIS FEAR OF LOSING THEM.
...TOWARDS SOMETHING THAT TAKES AWAY THAT WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO YOU.

HIS "WOMAN OF DESTINY."

SOMEONE ELSE WILL SEE THE SAME STAR AS HIM.

SOMEONE LIKE HIM IS BOUND TO FIND HIS KINDRED SPIRIT.

NO MATTER WHERE HE IS...

...IS PROOF THAT HE LONGS FOR A FAMILY.

BUT, HIS ISOLATION...

End Passage 5

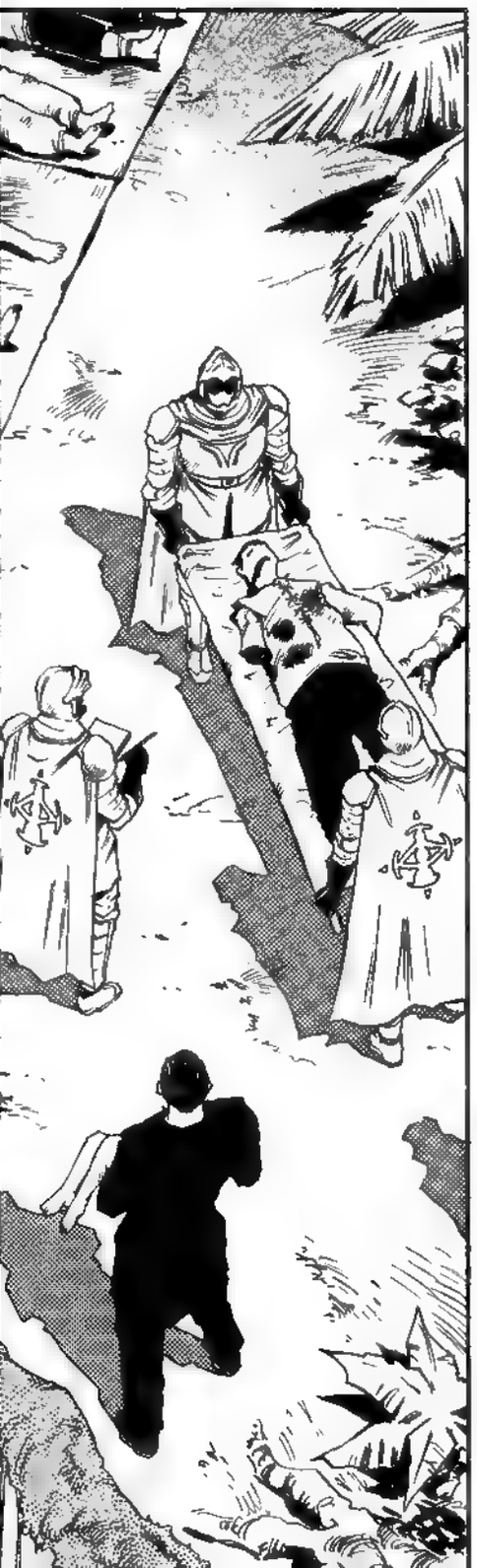
Passage 6: Lost Light

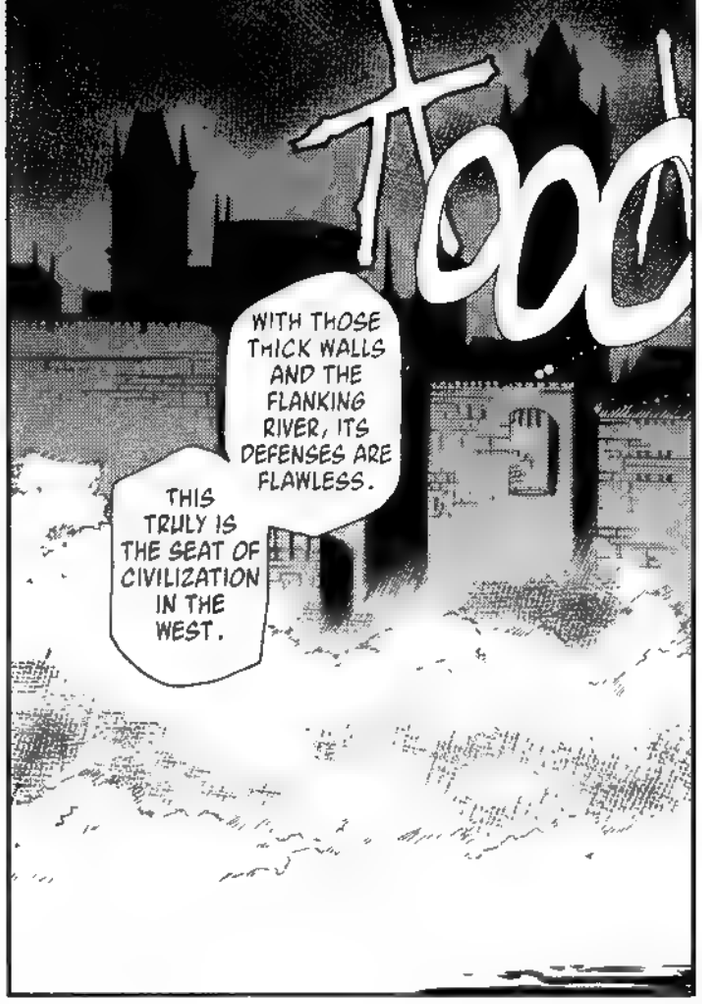
GOD GIVES YOU LIGHT.
HE LOOKS UPON YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.
HIS LIGHT IS ALWAYS WITH YOU...
...LEONEDUS.
YOU MUST TRAIN YOUR EYES TO SEE THE LIGHT PROPERLY...
...SO IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO MISS THAT LIGHT.
...THE LIGHT IS...
FOR ME...
EYES THAT NEVER MISS THE LIGHT...

Passage 6: Lost Light

SPLASH
HUFF
HUFF
SPLAAASH
.....
...I'M SORRY.
SPLAAASH
CLACK
I DIDN'T MEAN TO FALL ASLEEP.
WHAT S SICKENING DREAM...
MAY GOD PROTECT GARRINCHIA.

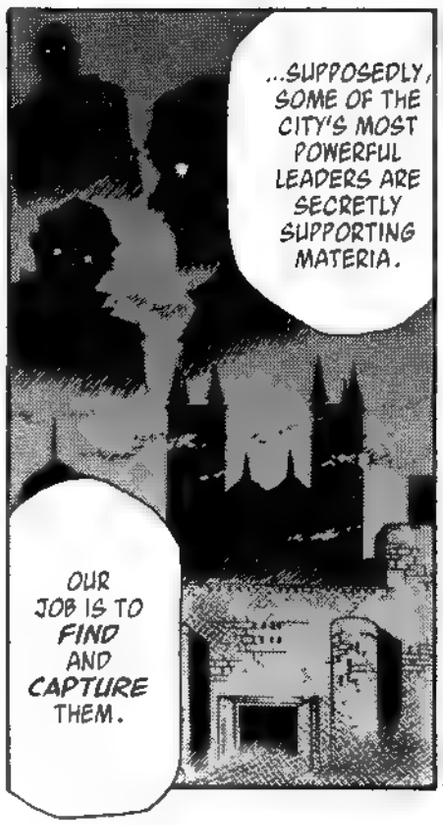
SETEN-BURO... IT'S MY FIRST VISIT IN A LONG TIME.
SPLISH
THIS IS PROBABLY YOUR FIRST TIME GOING THERE, ISN'T IT?
UH... YES.
SPLAAASH
IT'S THE CAPITAL OF THE WEST. INCLUDING THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND MILITARY OUTPOSTS, 500,000 PEOPLE LIVE THERE.
SPLAAASH
IT'S MAINTAINED ITS BEAUTY DESPITE THE FACT COUNTLESS WARS HAVE PLAGUED IT.
I THINK THAT IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY IN THIS COUNTRY.
CREAK
CREAK
A BEAUTIFUL... CITY...
THANKS TO THIS RIVER, IT'S WELL DEFENDED AGAINST ATTACKERS.
IT'S AN OLD CITY, JUDGING BY ITS ARCHITECTURE.
SPLASH
AH, HERE WE ARE.
YOU CAN SEE IT OVER THERE.

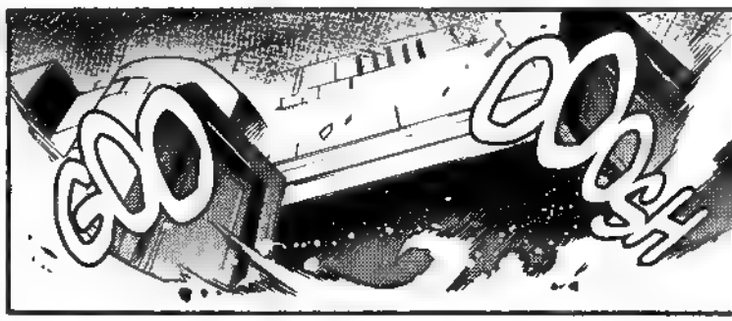



WITH THOSE THICK WALLS AND THE FLANKING RIVER, ITS DEFENSES ARE FLAWLESS.
THIS TRULY IS THE SEAT OF CIVILIZATION IN THE WEST.

THE FORTIFIED CITY OF SETENBURO.
SPLISH
SPLISH

SPLASH


...SUPPOSEDLY, SOME OF THE CITY'S MOST POWERFUL LEADERS ARE SECRETLY SUPPORTING MATERIA.
OUR JOB IS TO FIND AND CAPTURE THEM.



ADMIRING? THIS TOWN LOOKS AWFULLY CREEPY TO ME...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND ADMIRING THE BEAUTY. WE'RE ABOUT TO LAND.
CREAK

I HAVE YOUR REPORT, FATHER.
THIS REFUGEE IS FROM BOJIK VILLAGE.
CLACK

WE HAVE DETERMIND THAT ARSENAL INQUISITORS MURDERED HER.

ARSENAL HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING MATERIA CONNECTIONS WITHBOJIK.
IT APPEARS THAT THEY FOUND THE ENTIRE VILLAGE GUILTY AND SENTENCED THEM TO DEATH.
.....

FATHER GASCIOGNE.
YOU'RE HERE.

THERE WERE TRACES LEFT OF AN INQUISI-TION.
SO, WE'RE CERTAIN THAT IT WAS ARSENAL.
GASP
HOW COULD THEY ...?
THOSE BASTARDS!
FO-FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
HOW SHAMEFUL OF ME... IN FRONT OF YOUR HOLINESS...
...I'M SORRY, TOO.
HUH?
PLEASE CONTINUE.
YES, FATHER ...
OUR ANALYSIS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ONE BEHIND THIS ATTROCITY IS...
GARRINCHA-...FATHER
I HAVE ALREADY SENT A MESSENGER TO OUR SETENBURO HEAD-QUARTERS.

CLATTER

.....

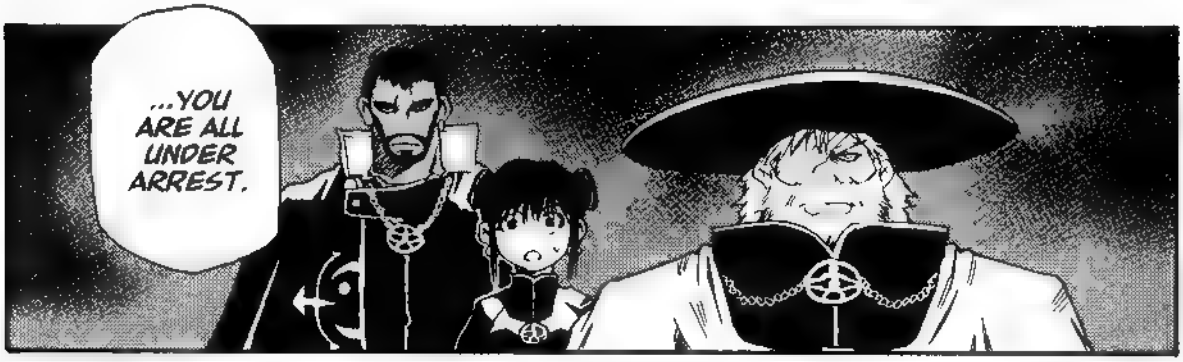
GARRINCHA...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE'S ALSO KNOWN AS THE "COLD-BLOODED ZEBRA."

...I NEED TO BORROW YOUR HORSE.

CLATTER
CLATTER
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
SOCRATES...
DOESN'T IT SEEM STRANGE HOW MANY GUARDS ARE HERE TO GREET US?
SLAM!
KREE
KREEEAK

DOOOM
AH! INQUISITOR GARRINCHA AND HIS STAFF. WELCOME TO SETENBURO!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

I'M SORRY I HAVE TO RUSH YOU AFTER YOUR LONG JOURNEY, BUT, I'M AFRAID...
I AM ANDRADE... ...HEAD OFFICER OF THE SETENBURO COMMITTEE.


...YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST.

IF YOU DON'T COME WITH US PEACEFULLY, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND WITH FORCE.

SQUEEZE

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO PLEAD YOUR CASE IN COURT.

?!
WHAT?!
TWITCH
YOU ARE GUILTY OF THE MASSACRE AT BOJIK VILLAGE.

WHOOSH
LEONEDUS...
WE HAVE TO ACT NOW. THEY'RE MOVING BEHIND US TO CUT OFF OUR ESCAPE, BUT WE SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH.
WE CAN MAKE A RUN FOR THE CENTER OF THE TOWN AND REGROUP.
TWITCH
...!!
DAMN!
WHAT TIMING...
A KID?!
HUH?
GASP
MUH!

SNAP
SNAP
RAISE...
GRAB
IT'S NO TROUBLE.
I WILL GO TO YOUR COURT.
CLACK
HUH?

GA
!!
THNK
GET THAT OFF OF HIM!
YOU SON OF A--!
WHOOSH!!
UGH...
GUH...
BRING THEM.
SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE EACH GIVEN A PLACE TO STAY.

FATHER GARRINCHA.
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, PLEASE...
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
YOUR TRIAL IS SET TO BEGIN.
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT PLEASE UNDER-STAND.
RIGHT BESIDE GOD!
YOU'LL GET SOME REST, SOON ENOUGH.

WOOOSH
CRACK
SMASH

...EEP!!
...!
H-HURRY UP AND BRING GARRINCHA!
LEONEDUS!
AAAAAHHH

WHAM

TAKE THIS ONE DOWN TO THE LOWEST LEVEL.
CHANGE OF PLANS!
HUH
GRR...
HUH
TO THINK THAT CALM AND COOL LEONEDUS
..COULD LOSE HIS TEMPER THIS WAY...
LEONEDUS...

HUFF
DAMN YOU, YOU LITTLE ARSENAL SHIT!
HUFF
HUFF
YOUR ASS IS IN FOR IT NOW!
WHAT WAS I THINKING ...?
WHY DID I HESITATE?
...I WANT THIS BASTARD BLIND!
THOSE EYES...
HUH!

...THAT'S WHEN I HESITATED...
RIGHT THEN...
YANK
BOI
WHY DIDN'T I SHOOT HIM?!
DRIP
WHY?!
WHY?!
SHHH
GEH...
UGH...
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...
...HOW PAINFUL IT WOULD BE TO LOSE MY MASTER...

End Passage 6

Passage 7: The Light

LEONEDUS...
FATHER GARRINCHA...
I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM.
SHIVER

WH-WHO'S THERE...?
HUH?
...KEYS?
CLINK
CREEAK
!
IT'S OPEN!
I WONDER IF IT'S GINORA?
THERE'S NOBODY HERE.
CLANK
CLANK
I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WALKING AROUND...
S-SCARY...
SNEAK
SNEAK
WHERE IS EVERY-ONE...?

HE WAS TAKEN DOWN TO THE LOWEST LEVEL...
LEONEDUS!
RIGHT.
PHEW
CLINK
!!
GRAB
I'M GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE, TOO.
I-I'M RELIEVED... THAT YOU'RE SAFE.
...?
FATHER SOCRATES!
IT'S ME.
KEEP QUIET.
MPH!
MPH!

GOING TO RESCUE LEONEDUS? ME, TOO.
HE MUST BE IN REALLY BAD SHAPE BY NOW.
LET'S GO.
STEP
STEP
STEP
FATHER SOCRATES...
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN LEONEDUS... LOSE HIS TEMPER LIKE THAT.
HE ALMOST LOOKED LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
HE LOOKED SO SERIOUS.
I NOTICED A HINT OF THAT WHEN HE HELPED ME ONCE BEFORE, TOO...
...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FATHER GARRINCHA, IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT HIMSELF ANYMORE.
I WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE'S BEEN VERY TENSE.
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM SMILE...

...AND I...
LENEUS...
...
...BUT WE DID MEET PEOPLE THAT WE COULD CALL FRIENDS.
WE HAD NEVER KNOWN OUR BIOLOGICAL FAMILY, AND GARDEN CERTAINLY WASN'T A PLACE TO MAKE YOU FEEL WARM...
...WE USED TO LAUGH A LOT AS KIDS.
THOSE WHO COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH THE CURRICULUM WERE BEATEN MERCILESSLY.
TRAINING AT GARDEN WAS INTENSE BEYOND ANYONE'S IMAGI-NATION.
AN ENEMY COULD ATTACK FROM ANY DIRECTION AT ANY TIME.
NO MATTER WHERE YOU WERE, YOU ALWAYS HAD TO BE READY TO FIGHT.
WE HAD TO CONTROL OUR FEAR IN ORDER TO STAY AFLOAT.

...FOR ARSENAL, THE FOUNDATION OF OUR GREAT NATION.
OUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT PRIESTS, INQUISITORS, AND COUNCILORS...
DURING ONE OF OUR LESSONS, WE HAD TO DODGE THE INSTRUCTOR'S ATTACKS IN TOTAL DARKNESS.
OUR DESTINY WAS IN THE HANDS OF OUR CRUEL INSTRUCTORS...
...AND THEY IN TURN TOOK THEIR ORDERS FROM MAESTRO ZAKARO.
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT LIFE AT GARDEN MEANT EVERYTHING TO US--WE HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
UNTIL WE WERE ABLE TO MASTER FIGHTING IN THE DARK, WE WERE LEFT ON THE COLD FLOOR, BLEEDING FOR DAYS.
...WE STILL SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SMILE AMONG OUR FRIENDS.
IN SPITE OF CONSTANT INJURIES AND NONSTOP TRAINING...

SMASH
AGH!
BUT, AS WE GOT OLDER, OUR INNOCENT SMILES GRADUALLY STARTED TO DISAPPEAR.
AHHHHH!!
AND I CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR IT.
WE STUDENTS HAD TO STOP HESITATING SO WE WOULDN'T BE PUNISHED.
PANT
VERY GOOD, WEIS.
AHHHHH!!
FLOP
FLOP
CLONK
AHHHH!!
AND IN OUR CLASS, NO ONE KEPT COOLER THAN LEONEDUS.
THE MORE COOL-HEADED YOU WERE, THE BETTER OFF YOU'D BE.

LEONEDUS! WHY WON'T YOU FINISH HIM?!
THIS...
...THIS IS ENOUGH...
.....
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
...THAT EVEN A SMALL HESITATION COULD RUIN EVERY-THING?!
UH...
AH...
AGH...
CRAK
CRAK
CRAK
HOW THE HELL DO YOU PLAN TO STOP YOUR OPPONENT IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THROUGH?
IDIOT CHILD!
I WAS CONSTANTLY REMINDING LEONEDUS.
YOU REALLY NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.
I'LL BE OKAY.
YOU FIND YOUR WAY TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE MORE THAN ANY OTHER STUDENT.
DON'T YOU LIKE ARSENAL?
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S JUST... SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE TO SACRIFICE SO MUCH.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, NO ONE AT GARDEN COULD UNDER-STAND HIS WAY OF THINKING.

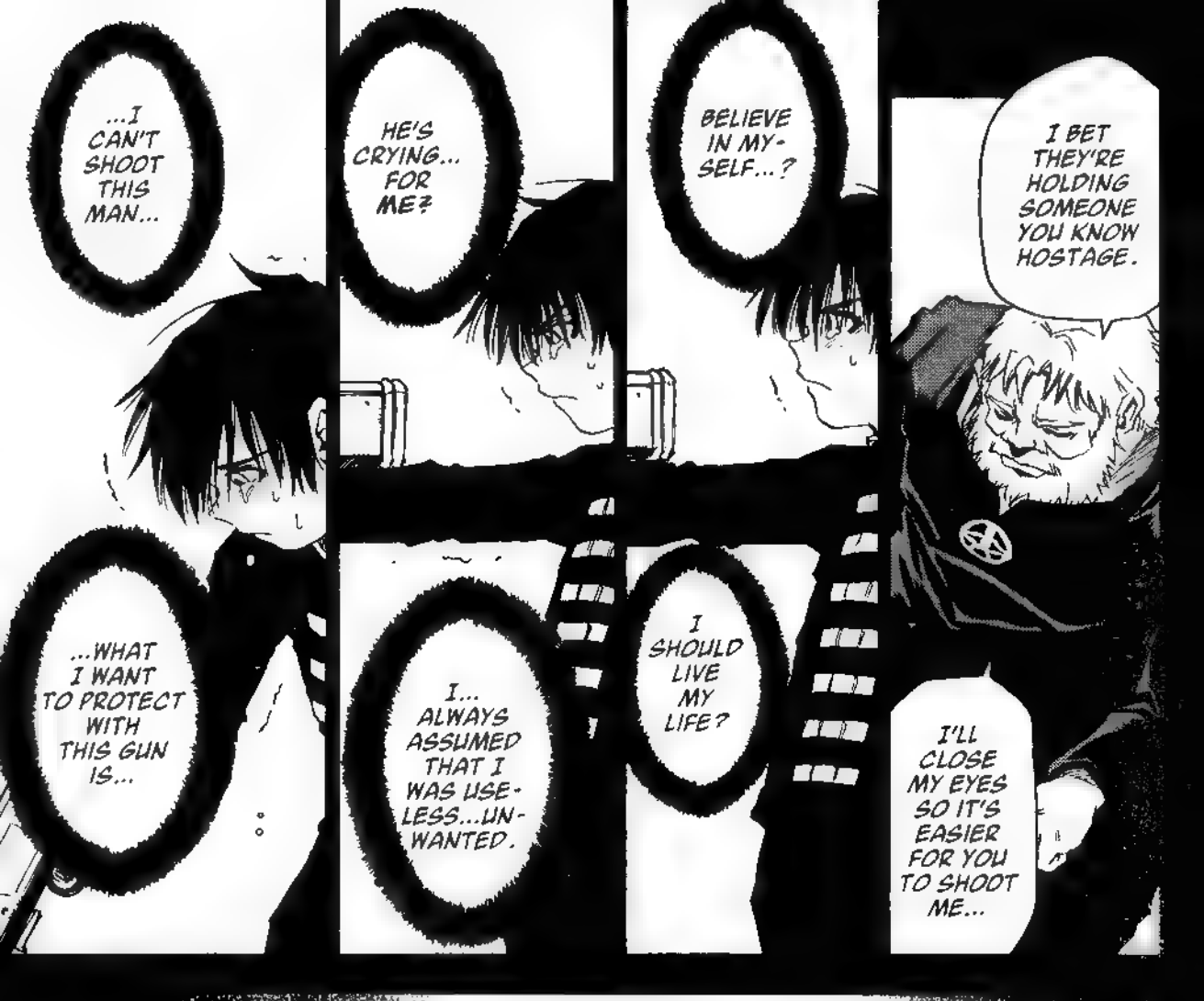
I HEAR HE'S GONNA BE TRANSFERRED TO WORK IN THE CAFETERIA.
.....
THE STUDENT WHO WAS INJURED IN THE QUARTER-STAFF FIGHT LOST HIS SIGHT.
IT WASN'T A SUICIDE.
.....
FIGURES. HE WAS DOING TERRIBLE IN THE ASSASSI-NATION CLASS...
HE JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW!
.....
BUT, THE NEXT MORNING...
FOR LEONEDUS, GARDEN ITSELF WAS THE DARK WORLD, NOT THE ENEMY HE WAS TRAINING TO FIGHT.
TECHNIQUES LEARNED AT GARDEN WERE TO BE KEPT SECRET TO OUT-SIDERS. STUDENTS WHO WERE NO LONGER USEFUL TO THE SCHOOL MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.
MANY STUDENTS COMMITTED "SUICIDE."
THIS IS THE TICKET TO YOUR SUCCESS.
YOU WON'T HESITATE THIS TIME, I CAN ASSURE YOU.
THE DAY LEONEDUS WALKED INTO ZAKARO'S GRIM AND GROTESQUE OFFICE...
EVENTUALLY THE DAY ARRIVED...
...THE DAY THAT CAUSED STUDENTS TO STOP SMILING ONCE AND FOR ALL.

GARRINCHA.
LEONEDUS RECEIVED HIS CARD... AND THE NAME ON IT--
Garrincha
THE EXAM.
AS PROOF OF THEIR COMMITMENT, STUDENTS HAD TO MURDER A PERSON OF ZAKARO'S CHOOSING.
TO PROVIDE EXTRA MOTIVATION, THEY WOULD BLACKMAIL THE STUDENT BY HOLDING SOMEONE THEY CARED ABOUT HOSTAGE.
AT GARDEN, THERE WERE OTHER STUDENTS WHO, LIKE LEONEDUS...
...LACKED THE RESOLVE TO COMPLETE THIS TASK.
SHHH!
LOWER YOUR VOICE!
NO WAY!
LEONEDUS STRUGGLED WITH HIS CONSCIENCE, AND IN THE END...
SABATI, ONE OF LEONEDUS' CLOSE FRIENDS AT THE TIME, WAS HIS "MOTIVATION."
...AS EVIDENCE OF HIS DEATH BY THE NEXT MORNING.
BOTH SABATI AND LEONEDUS WOULD BE KILLED IF HE DIDN'T BRING A PIECE OF GARRINCHA'S BODY BACK...
...HE MADE THE DECISION TO KILL GARRINCHA.

GARRINCHA WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE TARGET OF THE EXAM DUE TO POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.
APPARENTLY, GARRINCHA WAS REFUSING TO ACCEPT THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST TO MAKE HIM INQUISITOR.
KNOWING GARRINCHA, THE REQUEST WAS MEANT AS SOME TYPE OF PUNISHMENT.
THERE AREN'T ANY GUARDS AROUND...
CHAK
I SEE...
THEY SEND A YOUNG CHILD FROM GARDEN. HOW CRUEL...
.....

TREMBLE
...!
I HAVE TO SHOOT HIM...
...I HAVE TO SHOOT HIM, BUT...!
MY FINGER... WON'T MOVE!
SABATI!
...I CAN'T SHOOT...
DAMN!
DAMN!
YOU'LL BE PUNISHED OTHERWISE, WILL YOU NOT?
SHOOT ME.

I FEEL THANKFUL THAT EVEN IN A SICKENING PLACE LIKE GARDEN, A BLESSED CHILD LIKE YOU IS GROWING UP.
WORSHIPING IS NOT ABOUT BLINDLY BELIEVING WHAT'S BEEN TOLD.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ABILITY TO JUDGE WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG ON YOUR OWN, UNDER GOD'S SUPERVISION.
YOU SEE...
... NO MATTER HOW POORLY THEY TREAT YOU...
TEARS ...?!
?!
YOU'RE... CRYING?
WHY...?
!
...!
YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE!
...YOU MUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.


...I CAN'T SHOOT THIS MAN...
HE'S CRYING... FOR ME?
BELIEVE IN MY-SELF...?
I BET THEY'RE HOLDING SOMEONE YOU KNOW HOSTAGE.
...WHAT I WANT TO PROTECT WITH THIS GUN IS...
I... ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT I WAS USE-LESS...UN-WANTED.
I SHOULD LIVE MY LIFE?
I'LL CLOSE MY EYES SO IT'S EASIER FOR YOU TO SHOOT ME...

...GARRINCHA APPEARED A BRIGHT AND SHINING BEACON.
FOR LEONEDUS, WHO HAD ALWAYS BEEN LEFT IN THE SHADOWS AT GARDEN...

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE?
...
ZAKARO WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT, YOU KNOW.
WILL YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME?
LEONEDUS.
OKAY...
...LEONEDUS.
TAKE THIS TO ZAKARO.
FWD
LEONEDUS LEFT WITH THE INTENTION OF SHOOTING ZAKARO, BUT...
...UNEXPECTEDLY, ZAKARO APPEARED OVERJOYED TO HAVE RECEIVED THE PACKAGE AND RELEASED SABATI.
HA...
...HA HA HA HA HA!
SO, GARRINCHA HAS FINALLY ACCEPTED THE REQUEST!

HA HA HA HA HA ...
YOU EVEN BROUGHT A PRESENT FOR ME.
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO IT?!
GREAT! FANTASTIC JOB, LEONEDUS!
KA
BOOM
SMASH

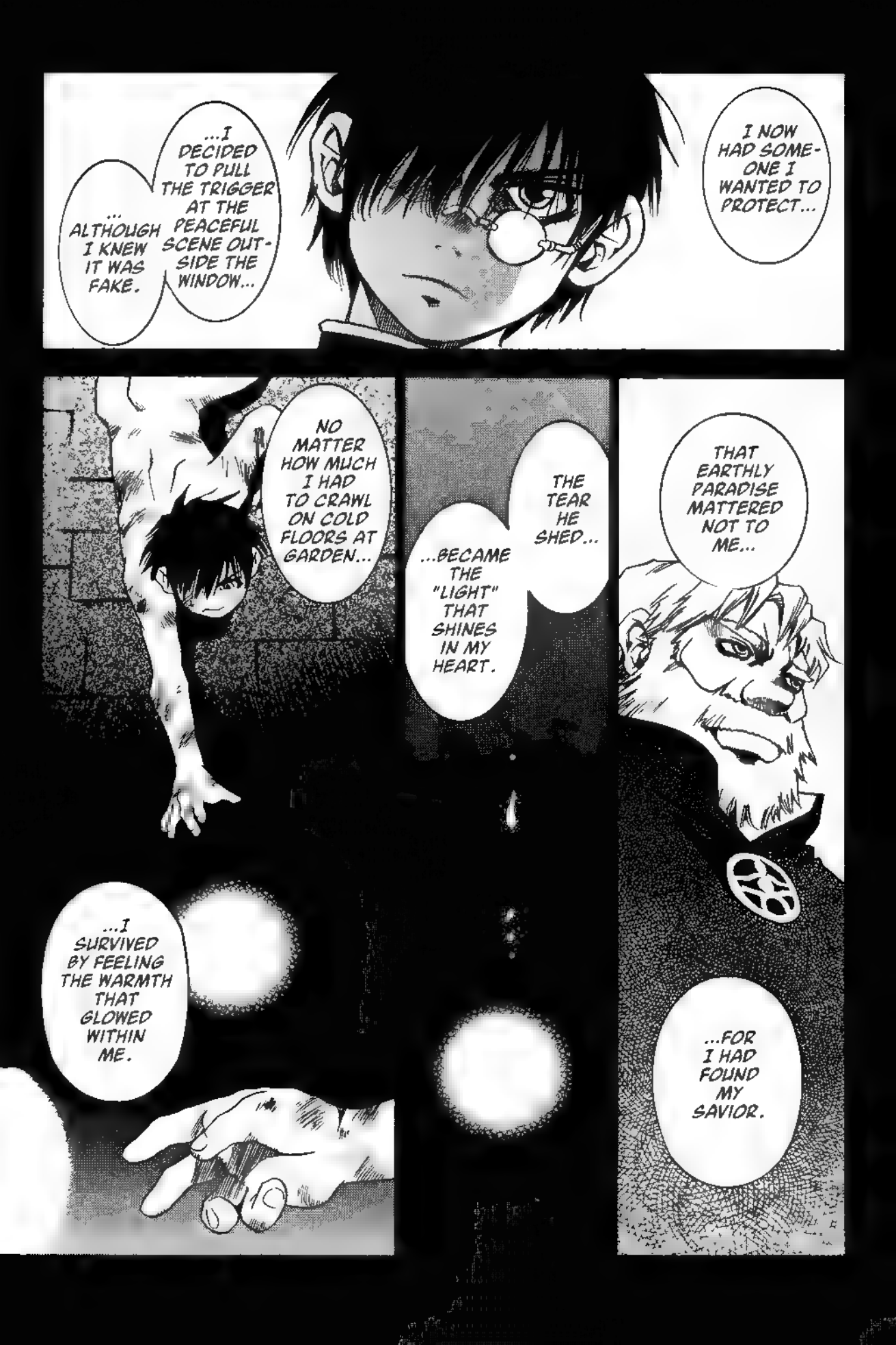
SO, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
THAT'S WHY LEONEDUS... IS SO PROTECTIVE OF GARRINCHA...
CAPRIA, WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE KEYS?
HUH?
OH, THEY WERE LEFT ON MY FLOOR.
DAMN...
...THIS LOCK SEEMS COMPLICATED.
IT WOULDN'T BE A LIE IF I SAID LEONEDUS ONLY STARTED WORSHIPING BECAUSE OF GARRINCHA.
!
CLACK
IT'S OPEN!
GROOOAW
LEONEDUS!
...LOOKS LIKE WE ARE HERE.
!

LEONIDUS!
KACHA
YOU'LL BE OKAY NOW, FRIEND.
.....
OH, SHIT-- YOUR EYES!
AND YOUR BODY IS SO COLD...YOU MUST HAVE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD...THIS DUNGEON IS FREEZING.
.....
BOTH LEONIDUS AND SOCRATES ARE FOLLOWING THEIR FAITH AND FIGHTING FOR THEIR JUSTICE...
...WHAT ABOUT ME?
ALL I EVER DO IS WATCH.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER?
WHAT... CAN I DO...?
CAPRIA!
BRING A BLANKET OR SOME-THING.

THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO FOR YOU RIGHT NOW...
...BUT I'LL DO ALL I CAN.
.....
GOOD IDEA, CAPRIA.
...THANK YOU.

EACH OF THEM HOLDS TIGHT TO "THE LIGHT" IN HIS HEART.
WHAT IS...MY "LIGHT?"
I HAVEN'T FOUND MY "LIGHT," BUT...
...AT LEAST FOR NOW...
...I CAN HELP KEEP LEONEDUS' LIGHT BURNING...
LEONEDUS... YOUR BODY IS SO COLD.
YOU'VE SACRIFICED SO MUCH...

EVERY-ONE HAD A DIFFERENT LOOK ON THEIR FACE.
EVER SINCE WE TOOK THE EXAM, EVERYONE STOPPED SMILING.
CHIRP
THE PEACEFUL SCENERY OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...
...FELT LIKE A MADE-UP WORLD.
IT SEEMS AS IF EVERY-THING AT GARDEN HAS CHANGED.
...I KNEW I HAD TO BECOME STRONGER.
"YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE."
BECAUSE HE SAID IT TO ME...


I NOW HAD SOMEONE I WANTED TO PROTECT...
...I DECIDED TO PULL THE TRIGGER AT THE PEACEFUL SCENE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...
... ALTHOUGH I KNEW IT WAS FAKE.
THAT EARTHLY PARADISE MATTERED NOT TO ME...
THE TEAR HE SHED...
...BECAME THE "LIGHT" THAT SHINES IN MY HEART.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I HAD TO CRAWL ON COLD FLOORS AT GARDEN...
...FOR I HAD FOUND MY SAVIOR.
...I SURVIVED BY FEELING THE WARMTH THAT GLOWED WITHIN ME.

.....

IF WE DON'T HURRY UP, THEY'LL MURDER HIM.
.....
IT'S PRETTY BAD.
THAT BASTARD ANDRADE ALREADY SENTENCED GARRINCHA TO DEATH.

GINORA?

BAAM!!
DAMN. THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH.
HOW'S LEONEDUS?
I FOUND IT, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY GUARDS FOR THE TWO OF US.
IN BAD SHAPE... THEY BLINDED HIM.
WHAT'S THE BEST LOCATION TO BREAK IN?
GOT IT.
WHO'S IN BAD SHAPE?
LEONEDUS! YOU STILL NEED MORE REST!
DON'T WORRY, CAPRIA.
THANKS TO YOU, I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
I'LL BE FINE.

BRING THE PRISONER FORWARD!

THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY GUARDS OUT THERE...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE HAVE TO PROTECT HIM.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT ONCE HE WAS BACK TO CONSCIOUS, THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...

GINORA!

WHERE'S MY GUN?

GET READY!

LEONEDUS... STAY INSIDE.

THERE ARE TOO MANY ENEMIES FOR YOU TO BEAT.

WE SHALL NOW CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE!!

YOU APPEAR TO BE THE ONES RUSHING TO JUDGEMENT.

ONE MIGHT THINK THAT THERE'S SOMEONE IN THIS TOWN YOU WOULDN'T LIKE US TO MEET.

GASP

INNOCENT CITIZENS, HM?

...BUT THEY'LL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH, TOO, OF COURSE.

NOT THAT I NEED TO TELL YOU...

SILENCE!

NOW THAT YOU HAVE ME, WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MY PEOPLE?

A DEATH PENALTY BY **BEHEADING** IS OUR TOWN'S TRADITION...AND IT'S WAY MORE HUMANE THAN ARSENAL'S DEATH BY BURNING.

YOU MUST HAVE PUNISHED MANY INNOCENT CITIZENS IN THE PAST?

HOW DOES IT FEEL FOR THE EXECUTIONER TO FIND HIMSELF ON THE GALLOWS?

I HAVE IT HERE.
DRAG
HOW THE HELL DO YOU LUG THIS THING AROUND EVERY-WHERE?
.....
.....
THANK YOU...
PLEASE DON'T DIE, EVERY-ONE...
WE'RE IN PLACE, EXACTLY BEHIND THE SCAFFOLD.
ONCE WE BREAK THROUGH, IT'S A STRAIGHT SHOT TO GARRINCHA.
WHILE I DISTRACT THE GUARDS...
...YOU ALL TAKE GARRINCHA AND ESCAPE FROM HERE!
READY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT... YOU CAN'T SEE, CAN YOU?
NO.
I'LL BE THE DECOY!
NO NEED TO WORRY...
SMASH!!
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M BETTER OFF BLIND.
...SURE.
LET'S GO.

End Passage 7

Passage 8:
A Breakthrough
WOOSH
!!
D--
DAMMIT!

Passage 8: A Breakthrough

?!

KA

BOOM

WHAT THE--?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AGH...!
IT APPEARS THAT SOMEONE SET OFF EXPLOSIVES IN THE HEADQUARTERS AND NOW THE WHOLE BUILDING IS ON FIRE!
CHIEF! I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS!
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! THE PERPETRATOR MAY STILL BE IN THE BUILDING!
SQUADS 2 AND 3, FOLLOW ME! WE'LL PUT THE FIRE OUT!
I...I'D BETTER GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
KEEP HIM THERE AS BAIT AND USE HIM TO DRAW OUT THE INTRUDERS!
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD ESCAPE ALONE.
SPLAT
CHIEF!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH GARRINCHA?

WHOOOSH!
THOK

OLD MAN.
YOU'RE IN OUR WAY. GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
YOU'RE GOING TO PUT OUT THE FIRE, RIGHT?
UH...
UWAH...
...AT LEAST... NOT YET.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL YOU...
...TOO STRONG FOR US TO SUBDUE!
THEY MAY BE...
SHIT!
AIEE!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHO CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION, BUT THANKS TO THEM, WE HAVE A LOT LESS ENEMIES TO DEAL WITH.
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT WE CAN DISCUSS IT LATER.
RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
FATHER! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE WHILE LEONEDUS IS DISTRACTING THEM.
HE'S ACTING RASHLY... IS SOMETHING WRONG?
THE BOMB WAS YOURS, TOO?
THAT WE CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR...

LEONEDUS...!

PLEASE WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE RIGHT NOW, FATHER.

WE CAN'T LET THEM CAPTURE YOU AGAIN.

WE ALREADY ELIMINATED ALL THE RIFLEMEN.

SOMEONE HAS TO STAY AND DISTRACT THE FOOT SOLDIERS.

WHAT ABOUT LEONEDUS?

FIRST THE KEYS LEFT IN CAPRIA'S CELL, THEN THE BOMB...

...SOME-ONE IS HELPING US TO ESCAPE...?

GWOOOO
REPORT!
WHERE'S THE WATER?
I'M SORRY, SIR...
...THE WATER PUMP HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
CLANK
CLANK
SHIT... THIS IS A DISASTER!
CLANK
THEY POURED OIL THROUGH-OUT THE FORTRESS-- THE FIRE'S OUT OF CONTROL.
THEN USE BUCKETS!
GATHER AS MANY BUCKETS AS POSSIBLE! I'LL FOLLOW YOU!
!
I HAVE TO GO BACK OUT THERE AND CAPTURE GARRINCHA...

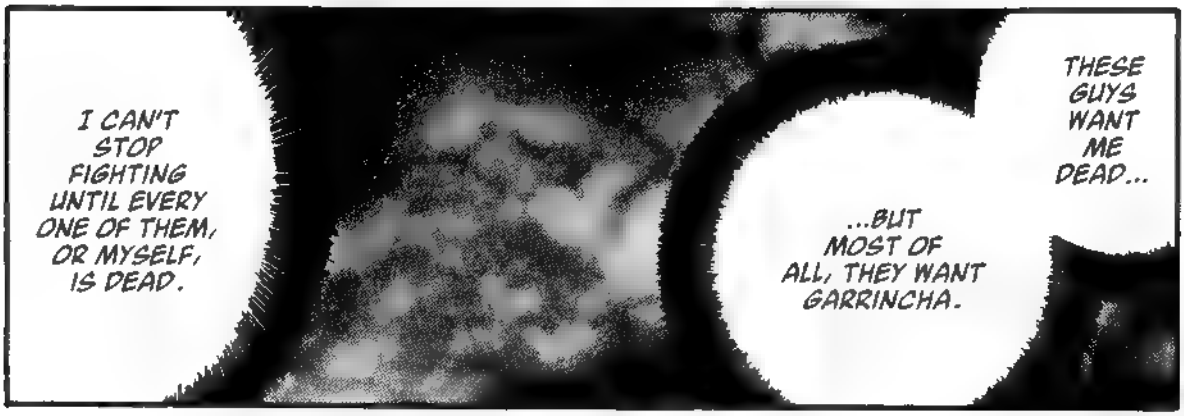
FATHER GASCIOGNE-- YOU'RE HERE!
ARE YOU OKAY?
THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS. YOU HAVE TO EVACUATE!
HAVE YOU SEEN ANYONE SUSPICIOUS?
NO... NO ONE AT ALL.
THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PUT OUT THIS FIRE...
...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE THAT BURNS WITHIN THEM?
HEY, YOU-- RUN!
YES, SIR. EVERY-ONE WAS OUTSIDE, SO...
HURRY UP AND PUT OUT THAT FIRE!
OH, I WILL.
WE'RE JUST LUCKY NO ONE WAS IN THE BUILDING.

...LEONEDUS ...IS OKAY...?
I WONDER IF...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
FWO
OOSH
!!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
IF YOU GET CAUGHT, IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF LEONEDUS STAYING BEHIND TO LET US ESCAPE.
I-I'M SORRY...
SHOOT
SNIFFLE
DASH
...SHE'S HELP-LESS...

HUFF
HUFF
ALL I AM ABLE TO SEE RIGHT NOW...
...IS DARK-NESS...
...AND THE HATRED OF CORINTHIAN'S SOLDIERS.

I'M SORRY, SOCRATES...I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO REJOIN YOU THIS TIME.
HUFF
HUFF
ONCE WE'VE GOT GARRINCHA TO SAFETY, YOU GET YOURSELF OUT OF THERE, TOO.


I CAN'T STOP FIGHTING UNTIL EVERY ONE OF THEM, OR MYSELF, IS DEAD.
...BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY WANT GARRINCHA.
THESE GUYS WANT ME DEAD...

...IF SOMEONE ELSE GOES FOR HIM, I'LL GO, TOO.
WE MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM...
HE'S GETTING TIRED.
GRAB
STAGGER
IS THIS THE END...?!
WOOSH
...HE'S COMING!
C'MON, BODY! MOVE!

RELAX, GINORA...

I WAS JUST CATCHING MY BREATH.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALREADY?

WHY DID YOU COME BACK?

I'F GARRINCHA WERE TO DIE, YOU'D BE SAD, WOULDN'T YOU?

YOU CAN'T ASSUME THAT NOBODY WOULD MISS YOU IF YOU DIED.

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS OF DYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LIVE FOR.

...YEAH...

THAT'S RIGHT...

SOMETIMES IT'S AWKWARD BEING WITH GARRINCHA AND THE GUYS.

BEING IN THE BATTLE SCENE IS MORE MY STYLE.

.....

WHAT CAN I SAY...?

...ON MY LIFE!
...I CAN'T GIVE UP...
UNTIL I HAVE A CHANCE TO PROVE GARRINCHA'S INNOCENCE...

ELDIUS. MAY GOD LEAD US.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN ONCE GARRINCHA IS SAFE.
GOT IT.
WE CAN'T BUY ANY MORE TIME. WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK THROUGH THEIR RANKS.

STOP.
TMP
TMP
TMP
.....
CAPRIA.
PLEASE TAKE THE INQUISITOR AND GET AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE.
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU...?
.....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! THE STREET IS NOT SAFE.
BUT, THIS IS A STRAIGHT PATH...
.....
...YOU MEAN...
WOOOOO

HOLA AMIGO!
!
FORGIVE ME.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN.
NOW..
FWH
ISH
GRAB
SLASH
SPLAAASH

fwip
I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK YOU.
NOT EXACTLY CORINTHIAN SOLDIERS, ARE YOU?

GARRINCHA! INQUISITOR
ARE YOU OKAY?
...YES.
GASP!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO FATHER SOCRATES?
.....
HE MUST HAVE DETECTED AN ENEMY.
SOME KIND OF OPPONENT THAT HE COULDN'T HAVE FOUGHT IF WE WERE AROUND.
...IS...
...BROKEN?
INQUISITOR, YOUR LEG...
AR- ARTIFICIAL LEG...?!
S-SO MANY... SCARS...!

ARE YOU SURPRISED, CHILD?
TH-THE RUMORS ABOUT THE "ONE-EYED ZEBRA" WERE...
...P-PERHAPS TRUE?
!!
WE WERE FOL-LOWED?!
!
!

End Passage 8

Passage 9:
The Shadow of Death.
WOOSH
THERE'S A CORINTHIAN PRIEST STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU...!

HE DIDN'T MOVE AN INCH.

THIS MAN IS...

Passage 9: The Shadow of Death

KA
BOOM
WHAT?!

GLONK
SLOSH
!!

IT'S OKAY, CAPRIA.
SPLASH
THIS MAN IS NOT OUR ENEMY...
SLOSH
...AT LEAST I DON'T THINK HE IS.
...
SLOSH
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY LEAVING YOUR GUN BEHIND?
AFTER LOSING MY SIGHT I NOTICED I'M ABLE TO SEE THINGS NOW, I WAS NEVER ABLE TO SEE BEFORE.
I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ATTACKED ME.
IF I WEREN'T BLIND, I WOULD HAVE SHOT YOU IN A SECOND.
NO...
...AT THAT MOMENT I FELT SOMETHING IN THIS MAN.

OR WAS I JUST BEING DELUSIONAL...?
GASCIOGNE.
FATHER GASCIOGNE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP...
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, INQUISITOR?
I'M ALL RIGHT.
CHACK
RIGHT.
YOU'LL BE SAFER IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND US.
AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GET LOST.
...YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP.

YOUR FELLOW ARSENAL PRIESTS ARE TRYING TO DISTRACT THEM, BUT TWO OF THEM CAN'T OCCUPY AN ENTIRE CITY GARRISON.
SETENBURO IS FULL OF SOLDIERS THAT ARE DYING TO KILL YOU.
...EXCUSE ME FOR SAYING THIS, BUT I DOUBT THAT A BLIND MAN, A WOMAN AND AN ELDERLY PRIEST STAND MUCH OF A CHANCE.
MAYBE IF YOU WERE ALL IN TOP SHAPE, YOU COULD FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH, BUT...
ALL THE MAIN GATES OUT OF SETENBURO ARE BLOCKED OFF BY COUNTLESS SOLDIERS.
...YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER EXIT OUT OF THE CITY.
THAT MEANS...
YOU CATCH ON QUICK.
LET ME GUESS. YOU WANT US TO FOLLOW YOU.
HOW-EVER, THERE IS A WAY...
THIS CITY IS A FORTRESS. BREAKING OUT OF THIS PLACE IS JUST AS TOUGH AS BREAKING IN.

I JUST DON'T LIKE AN UNFAIR TRIAL.
NORMALLY, I WOULD SEE AN ARSENAL INQUISITOR AS MY ENEMY...
ANGLE?
NOTHING SO SINISTER.
WHAT'S YOUR ANGLE, GASCIOGNE?
WHY ARE YOU HELPING US?
...FATHER GARRINCHA.
BUT, NOT YOU...
SOMEONE SET YOU UP.
I AM CERTAIN YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MASSACRE OF BOJIK VILLAGE.

THE FIRST REPORT FROM THE SITE...
...INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF AN INQUISITION...
...HOWEVER, WE LATER FOUND SIGNS THAT A TRIAL HAD BEEN HELD THERE.
MOST LIKELY, SOMEONE HAD PLANTED THE EVIDENCE.

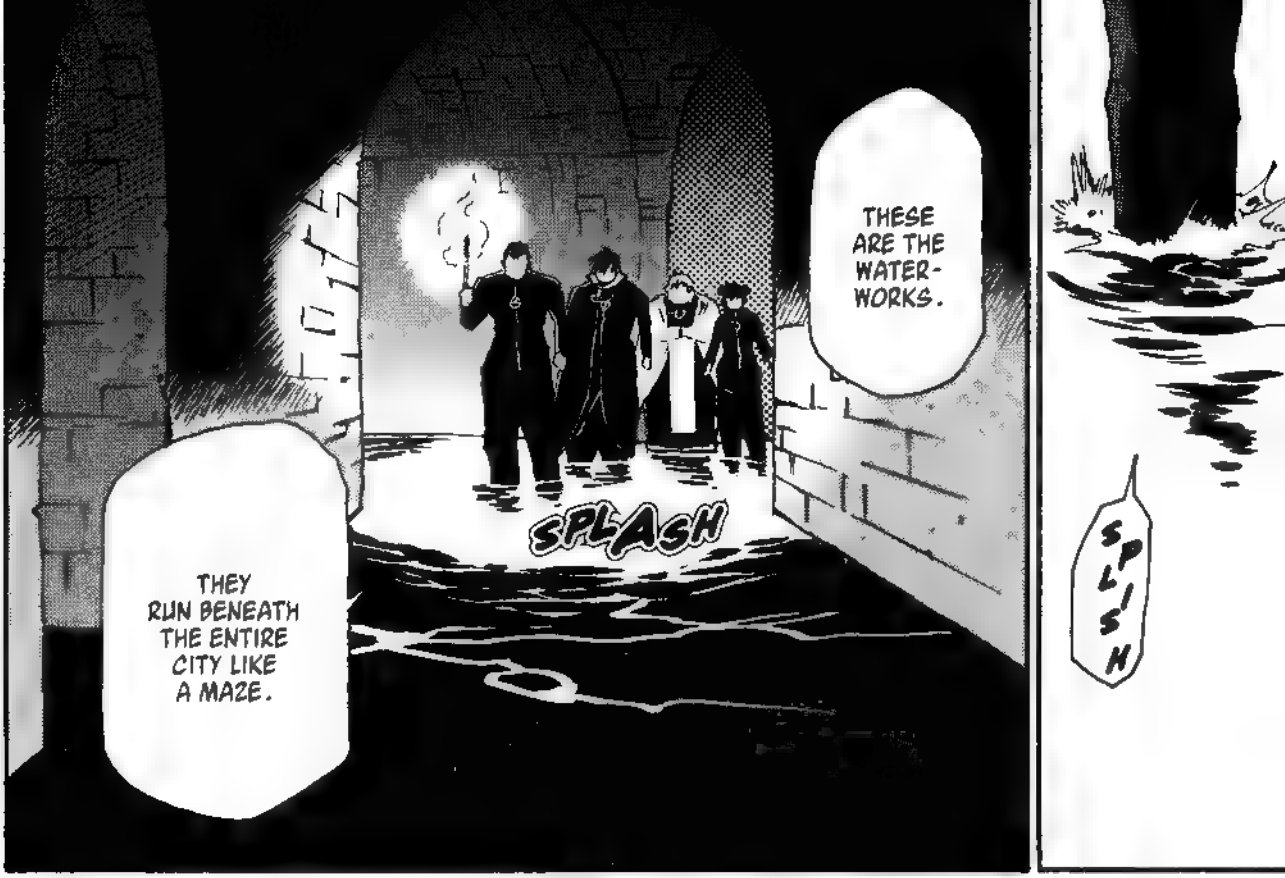
E-EXCUSE ME...
THE EXPLOSION... AND THE KEYS FROM EARLIER...WERE THOSE ALSO YOU, FATHER?

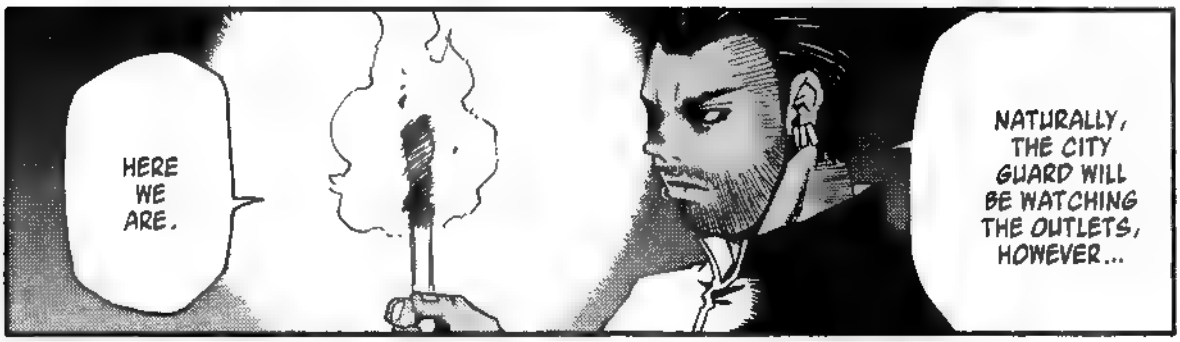
.....
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

NO.
AND YOU EXPECT US TO TRUST YOU?
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T PROVE THAT I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY.

THIS IS AS MUCH AS I CAN TELL YOU.
I MUST GO SOON.
YOUR TWO FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING UP THERE SO YOU CAN ESCAPE. DON'T LET THEIR SACRIFICE BE IN VAIN.

!!
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN ME?
WHAT YOU MUST BELIEVE IN IS NOT "ME..."
...BUT WHAT YOU SEE WITH YOUR "EYES."
.....


THESE ARE THE WATER-WORKS.
SPLASH
THEY RUN BENEATH THE ENTIRE CITY LIKE A MAZE.
SPLISH


HERE WE ARE.
NATURALLY, THE CITY GUARD WILL BE WATCHING THE OUTLETS, HOWEVER...

THE CITY OFFICIALS SHOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS TUNNEL.
FOLLOW IT TO ITS END AND IT WILL PUT YOU JUST OUTSIDE SETENBURO'S NORTHERN WALL.
POOR VILLAGERS DUG A SECRET PASSAGE DOWN HERE LONG AGO IN ORDER TO SNEAK INTO THE CITY UNDETECTED.

GAGRAK

YOUR FIRST PRIORITY SHOULD BE GETTING INQUISITOR GARRINCHA AND THE ROTHO* TO A SAFER LOCATION.
TAKE THE HORSES AND HEAD NORTH UNTIL YOU GET TO THE RIVER. THERE, YOU WILL FIND A BOAT THAT I USED TO GET HERE.
GO OUTSIDE AND THERE WILL BE A PAIR OF HORSES WAITING FOR YOU.
*ROTHO = ARSENAL TERM FOR A NUN.
LEONEDUS...
...DON'T MENTION IT.
FATHER GASCIOGNE, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.
...I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. GOD BE WITH YOU.
AND PLEASE BE CARE-FUL.
...AND YET VERY FAR AWAY...
"DEATH" IS CLOSE AT HAND...

SPLASH
HMM. LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO RAIN...
SUCH PRECISE JUDGEMENT AND AMAZING VITALITY... AND THE WAY HE HELD THAT GUN... I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE HE'S KILLED IN HIS LIFE...?
AND HOW MANY MORE HE'LL KILL... TODAY...AND TOMORROW.
...AND ...THAT MAN LEONEDUS.
INQUISITOR GARRINCHA...
YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK ME.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THE CHANCE TO LIVE.

BUT... WHY?
...THE LIGHT GIVEN OFF BY GARRINCHA...
I KNOW I SAW IT... JUST FOR A SECOND...
...WAS OVER-LAPPING WITH HIM.

SPLISH
HE CERTAINLY ACTED AS IF WE HAD MET BEFORE.
EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS SOME KIND OF COVER UP AT BOJIK...
...THAT ALONE DOESN'T PROVE THAT WE HAD NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE MASSACRE.
SPLISH
NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
...BUT I MAY HAVE.
MASTER... HAVE YOU MET GASCIOGNE BEFORE?

BUT... ASSUMING WE BELIEVE THIS GASCIOGNE...
.....
...WHO WOULD HAVE FAKED EVIDENCE OF AN INQUISITION AT BOJIK?
GASCIOGNE TRUSTED YOU, MASTER.
MOST LIKELY HE ALSO ARRANGED THE BOMB EXPLOSION AND LEFT THE KEYS FOR US.

SOMEONE WHO WANTED US OUT OF THE WAY.
I'M GUESSING THEY DIDN'T WANT US FINDING OUT ABOUT THE SETENBURO'S CONNECTIONS TO MATERIA.
THE FRAME WAS PROBABLY SET UP BY CORINTHIANS WITH TIES TO MATERIA...
...OR MATERIA MEMBERS THEM-SELVES.
I DOUBT THEY WOULD HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO MURDER AN ENTIRE VILLAGE FOR THEIR CAUSE. SOMEONE ELSE WAS PROBABLY BEHIND THE MASSACRE.
THOSE WHO SET US UP WERE JUST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A TRAGEDY.
S-SOME-ONE ELSE...?
BUT... WHO...?
PERHAPS, IN ORDER TO BRING MATERIA MEMBERS OUT OF HIDING...
...IT WAS DONE BY OTHER INQUISI-TORS.

BUT, THE LOCATION AND THE TIME WERE SO CLOSE TO OUR PASSING THROUGH...
WITHOUT TELLING US ANYTHING...?!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO DO?!
WERE WE USED AS DECOYS?!

OUR REAL ENEMIES...
...THE ONES WE NEED TO FIND AND TO DEFEAT... MIGHT BE...
...MIGHT BE...

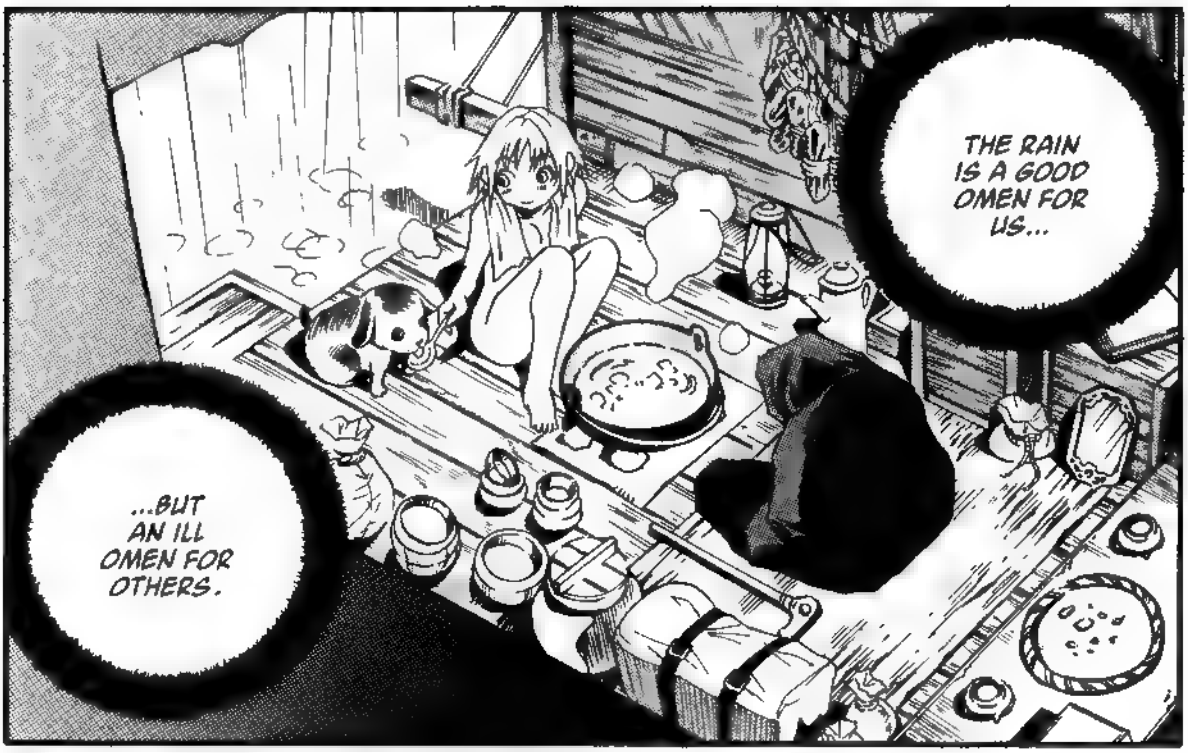
DRIP
SHAAA
SHAAAAAA
SHAAAAAA
D-
DAMN...

...DEATH'S HAND!

...START FIGHTING SERIOUSLY ALREADY?
WHY DON'T YOU...
EXCELLENT!
THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN.
HE'S RIGHT. THESE ARSENAL GUYS AREN'T THE TYPE TO JUST SURRENDER.
SHAAAAA
LET'S BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THEM.
I KNOW YOU FOOLS...
...MUST HAVE BEEN PLANNING ON CAPTURING US ALIVE...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T STOP BEING SO EASY ON US YOU'LL ALL BE KILLED.

THUK
CRACK
CLATR
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A STRONG, EVIL ENERGY...WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THEIR ARRIVAL.
ALREADY... HALF OF THEM HAVE BEEN KILLED.
GRANDPA!
SPLASH
RMMMMMBLE
WOOF
!
FIGHTING MAY NOT BE AN OPTION. WE MAY HAVE TO COME UP WITH AN ALTERNATE PLAN.
PLIP
WOOF
PLIP
WOOF

IT'S POURING OUT THERE!
WHAT? IS THAT SO?
A GOOD OMEN...
GOODNESS, LUICCI! HOW COULD YOU GO SWIMMING ON SUCH A COLD NIGHT?
IT'S OKAY. THE HOT SPRING IS WARMER THAN IT IS OUTSIDE.
WHERE IS EVERYONE? THEY'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD IN THIS WEATHER.
THE SOUP IS READY.
SIP
.....
WOOF
WOOF
SPLSH


THE RAIN IS A GOOD OMEN FOR US...
...BUT AN ILL OMEN FOR OTHERS.

FLEE

THE EXIT!

SLOG...

SHAA
IT'S RAINING...
...THAT'S NOT GOOD.
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FOR ME TO SENSE IF SOMEONE'S AROUND.
SHAAAAA
WE NEED TO HURRY.
TWITCH
BUT...
...THE RAIN IS DROWNING THEM OUT!
I SENSE SOME-ONE!
!!

"...CLOSE AT HAND AND YET FAR AWAY."
"DEATH' IS...
BESIDES... THIS IS...
!
"...AND FAR AWAY." WHAT COULD HE...?
"CLOSE AT HAND...
WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?!
NO! THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK. THE ENEMY COULD BE...
IS THAT POS-SIBLE?!
THE GARDEN ASSASSINATION TRICK!
CA
CHINK!

End Passage 9

Passage 10:
Garrincha

Passage 10: Garrincha

SHAA
...BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT US AT THE SAME TIME.
WHICH WAY WILL YOU CHOOSE?!
...YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO COUNTER-ATTACK...
...THE MOMENT THE ENEMY TRIES TO ATTACK US NEXT...
AA
AA
LEONEDUS...
LEONEDUS!

KA-
-RAK-

CADRIA!
RUN!
SHAA
AAAA

...!

BMP
SPLASH
SHAA...
AAAA
...GONE.
THE RAIN IS LETTING UP...
...AND OUR ATTACKERS ARE...
AAAA...

...!
THUNK
MASTER...
...I...
SQUEEZE

...I FAILED YOU!

...LEONEDUS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
YOU SAVED CAPRIA'S LIFE...
...AND YOU SAVED...
...MY SOUL.

LEONEDUS!
HE NEEDS A DOCTOR! WE HAVE TO FIND SOCRATES...!
NO... CAPRIA.
BOTH OF YOU... PLEASE STAY HERE WITH ME...
...!
THEY BOTH... KNOW THE TRUTH...
...THESE ARE THE FINAL MOMENTS...
...THAT'S WHY LEONEDUS SAID HE "FAILED" HIM.
THERE'S NO POINT IN DENYING IT WITH WORDS...
...BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THE TRUTH IN OUR HEARTS.

THE ATTACKERS WERE WITH...
PAT
...ARSENAL-
ASSASSINS FROM GARDEN.

WHAT?!
IT WASN'T A CORINTHIAN SOLDIER?

...MY GUESS IS THAT MY POLITICAL ENEMY...
...DALGLISH... IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS.
HE'S ONE OF THE ELEVEN APOSTLES OF NEO ARSEN...
...THE NATION'S SUPREME COUNCIL.

JUST AS I EXPECTED...
SINCE YOU'RE BOTH BEING CHASED...
...I MUST TELL YOU SOME-THING.

...BUT, A TWELFTH APOSTLE... WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE.
I WAS NOMINATED TO BE THE TWELFTH APOSTLE...
...BEEN ASSASSINATED OR GONE MISSING.
BECAUSE OF THAT, THOSE WHO WERE NOMINATED AS THE TWELFTH APOSTLE HAVE ALWAYS...
IN ORDER TO VOTE DOWN A MEASURE, MORE THAN ONE OPPONENT IS NEEDED.
THE DELIBERATIONS OF NEO ARSEN ARE USUALLY CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 10 TO 1.
...I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE A GO AT IT.
FOOL THAT I AM...
HEH HEH...
...NOBODY HAS WANTED TO SIT IN THAT CHAIR.
SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE COUNCIL...
...WHO WAS EXECUTED FOR SWIMMING AGAINST THE POLITICAL CURRENT OF HIS TIMES.
THE TWELFTH APOSTLE'S CHAIR WAS CALLED "THE CHAIR OF BERTONE," SO NAMED AFTER THE TWELFTH APOSTLE IN THE SCRIPTURES...

...IRONICALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY PERFORMANCE AS AN INQUISITOR THAT I WAS NOMINATED AS AN APOSTLE.
THAT WAS ALSO SET UP BY DALGLISH... BUT...
FOR ME, ACCEPTING THE POSITION OF INQUISITOR WAS THE SAME AS BEING SENTENCED TO PRISON.
OTHERS IN THE CHURCH SHARED MY BELIEFS AND NOMINATED ME AS A CANDIDATE... BUT...
..."UNIFICATION" WAS ARSENAL'S STRONG WISH. WHY WOULD THEY INTRODUCE OPPOSITION INTO THE HEART OF THEIR INSTITUTION...?
WHY WOULD THEY NOW NEED SOMEONE TO SIT ON BERTONE'S CHAIR?
THERE IS MORE OF A THREAT TO OUR CHURCH ON THAT HORIZON THAN CORINTHIAN HERETICS--A THREAT FROM WITHIN.
IF NEO ARSEN DOESN'T FACE THAT REALITY, THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF OUR HOLY NATION WILL BE COMPLETELY CHANGED.
RUMMBLE
IT WAS... WHILE I WAS IN THE FIELD...
...THAT I REALIZED ARSENAL'S GOAL OF ABSORBING AND UNIFYING THE CORINTHIANS...
...WOULD NEVER WORK AS LONG AS WE FOLLOWED OUR CURRENT BLOODY PATH.

I SUSPECT THIS IS A CONSPIRACY TO OVER-THROW THE INSTITUTION.
DAMN IT!
IT WAS RIGHT AROUND THE TIME WHEN MATERIA STARTED TO SHOW UP...
...THAT THE OPPOSING IDEA OF FILLING BERTONE'S CHAIR WAS FIRST VOICED.
THERE MUST BE SOME CONNECTION...

WHILE I BLOCK HIS SCYTHE, YOU MOVE IN FOR THE TAKE-DOWN.
LET'S SHOW THESE GUYS WHAT MATERIA IS MADE OF!
ALL RIGHT! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
SWOOSH
WOOSH
GA
CHANG
SKA
KA
CHNG

...FOOL.
CHING
!
DASH
DO IT, NOW!
?!
STAGGER
WHA--?!
KRAK
THOOM
THOOM

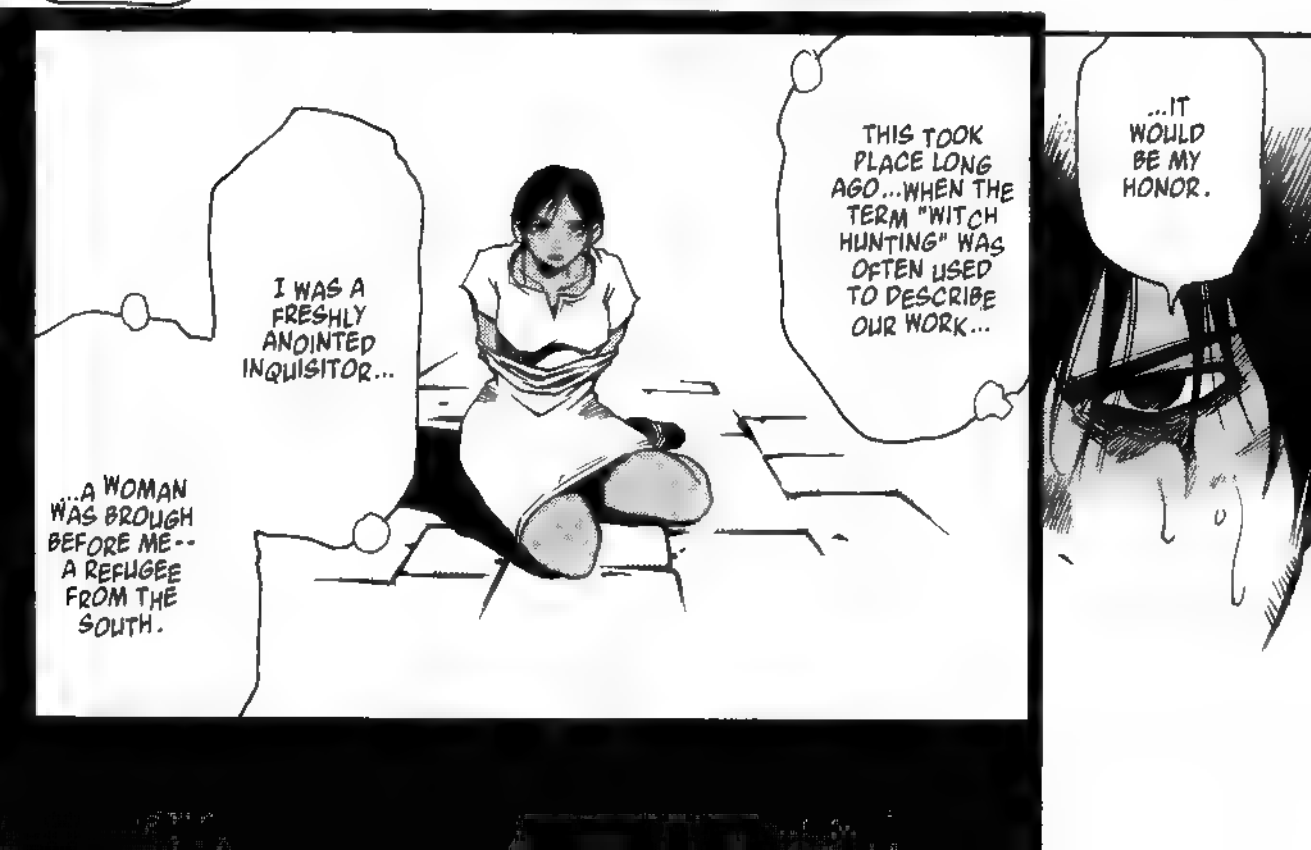
BOOOM
RMBKRMBL
THOOM
GWAAAH!
OOF...

OOOo...
I WONDER IF THOSE MATERIA BASTARDS ARE DEAD...?
.....
LOOKS LIKE THE GROUND COLLAPSED FROM ALL THE RAIN.
NO... YOU SAW HOW SLICK THEY WERE.
I IMAGINE AT LEAST SEVERAL OF THEM MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
NOW THAT THESE PLEASANTRIES ARE OVER...
...THE MAIN EVENT CAN FINALLY BEGIN.

LEONEDUS...
CAPRIA...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I'M SORRY THAT I GOT THE TWO OF YOU INVOLVED IN THIS...

PLEASE, DON'T BE SILLY, MASTER.
I KNOW YOU WOULD'VE TRIED TO FIGHT THIS ALONE IF YOU COULD...
...BUT I'M HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I COULD.

.....
TAROTH...
...WILL YOU HEAR MY CONFESSION ...?
...LEONEDUS...


...IT WOULD BE MY HONOR.
THIS TOOK PLACE LONG AGO...WHEN THE TERM "WITCH HUNTING" WAS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE OUR WORK...
I WAS A FRESHLY ANOINTED INQUISITOR...
...A WOMAN WAS BROUGH BEFORE ME-- A REFUGEE FROM THE SOUTH.

THEY CLAIMED THAT SHE WAS A WITCH WHO WAS CONFUSING PEOPLE'S MINDS WITH MYSTERIOUS DRUGS...
...BUT, WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT SHE HAD BEEN CAPTURED, PEOPLE ROSE UP IN PROTEST.
SOME WENT SO FAR AS TO RISK THEIR OWN LIVES TRYING TO RESCUE HER.
IT TURNED OUT THAT THE WOMAN WAS ACTUALLY A DOCTOR.
AS A FOREIGN REFUGEE, SHE MIGHT VERY WELL HAVE COME UPON HERBS THAT ARE NOT INDIGENOUS TO OUR COUNTRY.
BACK THEN, SOMEONE LIKE HER WOULD TYPICALLY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF WITCHCRAFT AND BURNED AT THE STAKE, HOWEVER...
SLAM
NOT GUILTY!
...I ACQUITTED HER BY USING THE EXCUSE OF HER BEING PREGNANT AND IT BEING UNJUST TO KILL THE BABY IN HER WOMB...
...BUT DALGLISH, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY CAPTURED HER, WAS PUT IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION BECAUSE OF MY JUDGEMENT.
RELEASING SOMEONE WHO WAS ONCE CAPTURED...
...WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.
I THINK THAT'S WHEN IT ALL STARTED... DALGLISH RESENTED ME FOR THAT AND USED HIS INFLUENCE TO HAVE ME PUT IN PRISON.

UNLESS I AGREED TO REVERSE MY DECISION, HE WOULD BE THE ONE WHO FAILED.
BUT, DALGLISH WOULDN'T LET IT GO.
IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE I COULD PRESENT MY REVERSAL AT THE INQUISITION, THEY PURPOSELY AVOIDED HURTING MY FACE...
I HAD FAITH THAT MY JUDGE-MENT WAS RIGHT.
...I REFUSED AND ENDURED THEIR TORTURE.
ONCE IN PRISON, THEY CONTINUED TO PRESSURE ME TO VOID MY DECISION ON HER SENTENCE...
...AND FINALLY... AFTER SIX YEARS IN JAIL...
...I ALMOST WENT MAD FROM THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF THE TORTURE...
MY BODY, HOWEVER, WAS ANOTHER STORY...
... AND THEN...
...MY LEG, THAT HAD BEEN TIGHTLY CINCHED WITH A LEATHER STRAP, FINALLY ROTTED AND FELL OFF...

...I RETRACTED... MY PREVIOUS JUDGEMENT.
YOU SHALL BE BURNED AT THE STAKE.
GUILTY...
...BY...
I... WAS...
...CARRIED AWAY...
...MY OWN FEAR.
...DEATH WAS ALL I WANTED.
AT THAT POINT...
I... HAD...
...GIVEN IN.
...THE WOMAN... SAID TO ME...
BUT, THEN...
THANK YOU.

HER SON...
...WHO WAS IN HER WOMB SIX MONTHS AGO...
...WAS THERE, STARING AT HIS OWN MOTHER...
...BEING BURNT AT THE STAKE...
UNTIL THE VERY END...
...HE WAS WATCHING IT.
THE PAIN AND SUFFERING... OF THIS MOTHER AND CHILD...
...WERE CAUSED BECAUSE OF ME.
BECAUSE I WAS CARRIED AWAY...BY MY OWN FEAR.

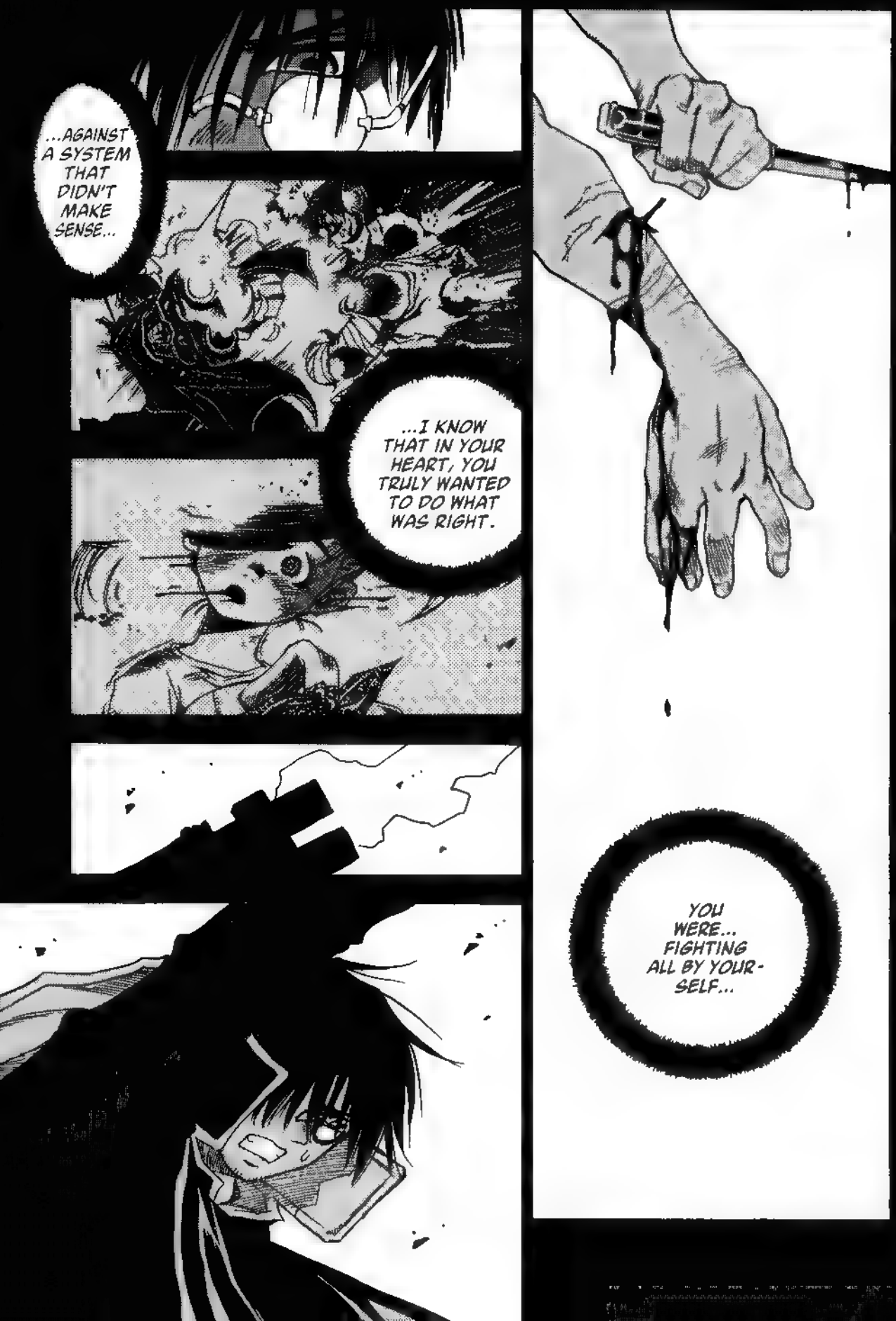
WILL GOD...
...NO...
...WILL THE BOY...
...FORGIVE ME...
...FOR THAT...?

YES, HE WILL.
THE YEARS YOU GAVE TO THE BOY AND HIS MOTHER...
...MUST HAVE MEANT THE WORLD TO THEM.
I AM... GLAD...
THANK--
Y... ...OU...

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO CARRY ON WITH MY LIFE BECAUSE OF YOU, LEONEDUS...BY OPENING MY HEART TO YOU.
NOW THAT I LOOK BACK...
...I WAS SO AFRAID OF WHAT THEY MIGHT DO THAT I COULDN'T EVEN HAVE A FAMILY.
...FROM GIVING UP ON HUMANITY ALTOGETHER.
...SAVED ME...
THE TEARS YOU SHOWED ME THEN...

GARDEN TOOK MANY THINGS...
...AWAY FROM YOU.
I SHOULD BE SAD...
ANOTHER OF MY FRIENDS WAS KILLED...
...BUT I CAN'T CRY.
THERE WERE MANY THINGS...
...I STILL WANTED TO PASS ON TO YOU.

LEONELLA!
POW
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
IF I HAD LET HIM GO...
...HE WOULD'VE TRIED TO KILL YOU AGAIN, MASTER.
I KNEW THAT...
...YOU WERE CRYING...
...ALL BY YOURSELF.


...AGAINST A SYSTEM THAT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE...
...I KNOW THAT IN YOUR HEART, YOU TRULY WANTED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT.
YOU WERE... FIGHTING ALL BY YOUR-SELF...

...I SAW THE LIGHT, CALLED "HOPE."
IN YOU...
...I'M SO... PROUD...
...OF YOU...
...YOU... WERE... ABLE... TO SHOOT... THE ENEMY...
...AT THAT MO-MENT...
LEO... NEDUS...
...BUT...YOU WEREN'T... CARRIED... AWAY...WITH ANGER...

THAT IS..
WHAT I LEARNED
FROM YOU, MASTER.
LEONELLA...
YOUR TEARS HAVE BEEN STOLEN AWAY...
BUT THE LIGHT I SAW IN YOU IS STILL WITH YOU...
IT IS STILL SHINING BRIGHTLY OVER ME...

...GOD...
...FOR BEING ABLE TO HAVE MET YOU...
I...
...I THANK...
...LEO... NEDUS...
...MY SON...

End Passage 10

THE BIZARRO LIFE OF SANBE KEI

THE LINE DRAWING TOOK ABOUT TWO MINUTES TO FINISH.
I TRIED TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF DETAIL ON THE VOL. 2 COVER TO AVOID ERRORS THIS TIME.
...THERE SHOULD'VE BEEN THIS TATTOO ON THE CHARACTER MARTINA'S LEFT ARM.
I FORGOT TO MENTION THIS IN VOL. 1, BUT ON THE COLOR PAGES...
TOTO KEEPS MISSING IT.
SO, HERE'S MY BIZZARO LIFE.
BUT I FORGOT TO DRAW IT!

IT'S A SIMPLE GAME, COMBINING MILITARY SIMULATION WITH COLLECTABLE FIGURES. IT'S FUN BECAUSE I DON'T REALLY HAVE TO THINK. (LAUGH)

FIRST UP ON THE LIST IS GUNDAM DIGITAL MISSION.

BECAUSE I HARDLY HAVE TIME TO GO OUTSIDE MY ROUTINES ARE LIMITED TO INDOOR ACTIVITIES.

HYA!

WHAT

NOW I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT MY USUAL PLAY ROUTINE.

IT'S KIND OF A DREAM-COME-TRUE GAME IN THAT IT'S USING LITTLE FIGURES SIMILAR TO THE GASHAPON(VENDING MACHINE) TOYS I USED TO COLLECT BACK IN THE DAY.

I RARELY PLAY IT BY MYSELF. USUALLY, I PLAY IT WITH MY STAFF AFTER WORK.

VROOM

AS FOR VIDEO GAMES, MY FAVORITE AT THE MOMENT IS THIS RACING SIM FOR THE PS2.

BUT IF I WRITE ABOUT MY FREE TIME TOO MUCH, APPARENTLY SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT I DON'T WORK HARD ENOUGH. I HEAR THAT OTHER MANGA CREATORS HAVE HAD THE SAME PROBLEMS. AS FOR ME, I ONLY TAKE 3-4 DAYS OFF IN A MONTH.

...BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BORING IF I WROTE THAT I WORKED ALL THE TIME.

IN "MY BIZARRO LIFE," I USED TO WRITE ABOUT SKI TRIPS AND DIFFERENT EVENTS I ATTENDED...

THAT'S THE MOST I TAKE.

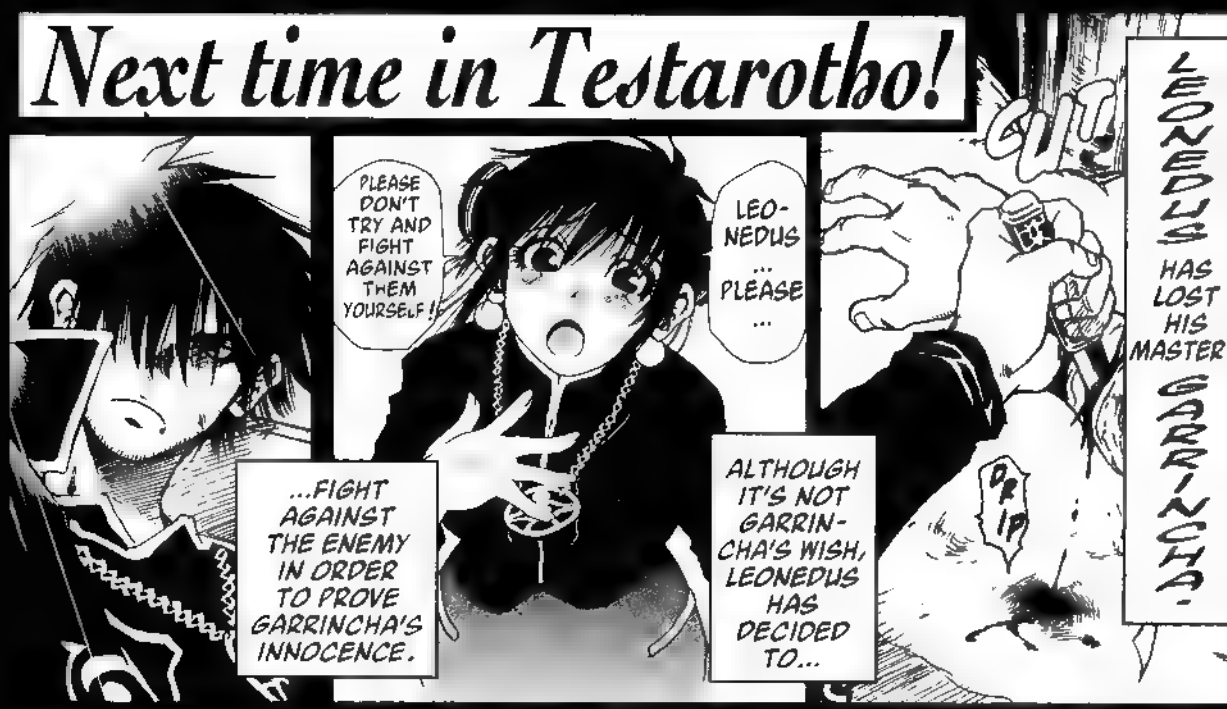
IF I FORGET SOMETHING AGAIN PLEASE ASSUME THAT I'M TIRED (OR MENTALLY ILL?) AND LAUGH AT IT. IN SUMMARY, I GUESS THESE BONUS PAGES ARE JUST FOR ME TO WRITE ABOUT EXCUSES FOR VARIOUS THINGS.

ZZZ

I MEAN, WHY DON'T YOU WORK WHILE YOU CAN STILL HAVE A JOB?

BUT TO BE HONEST I WISH I HAD HALF OF THE MONTH OFF (LAUGH), TO THE POINT WHERE PEOPLE AROUND ME TELL ME TO WORK HARDER.

Next time in Testarotho!


LEONEDUS HAS LOST HIS MASTER GARRINCHA.
OH!
LEO-NEDUS ... PLEASE ...
PLEASE DON'T TRY AND FIGHT AGAINST THEM YOURSELF!
...FIGHT AGAINST THE ENEMY IN ORDER TO PROVE GARRINCHA'S INNOCENCE.
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT GARRIN-CHA'S WISH, LEONEDUS HAS DECIDED TO...

I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE MATERIA'S IDEALS COME TRUE.
I SEE THAT RECENT EVENTS HAVE MADE YOU SOFT, GASCIOGNE.
MEANWHILE, UNBEKNOWNST TO LEONEDUS, A REVOLUTION IS BREWING...

cmx
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On sale in February
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By Sanbe Kei
Secrets come to light and traitors are revealed in the wake of Garrincha's death! Leonedus and the other Rotho struggle to survive upon escaping from the treachery at Setenburo. Will the hand of fate steer our heroes to survival...or doom? May Eldius guide them!
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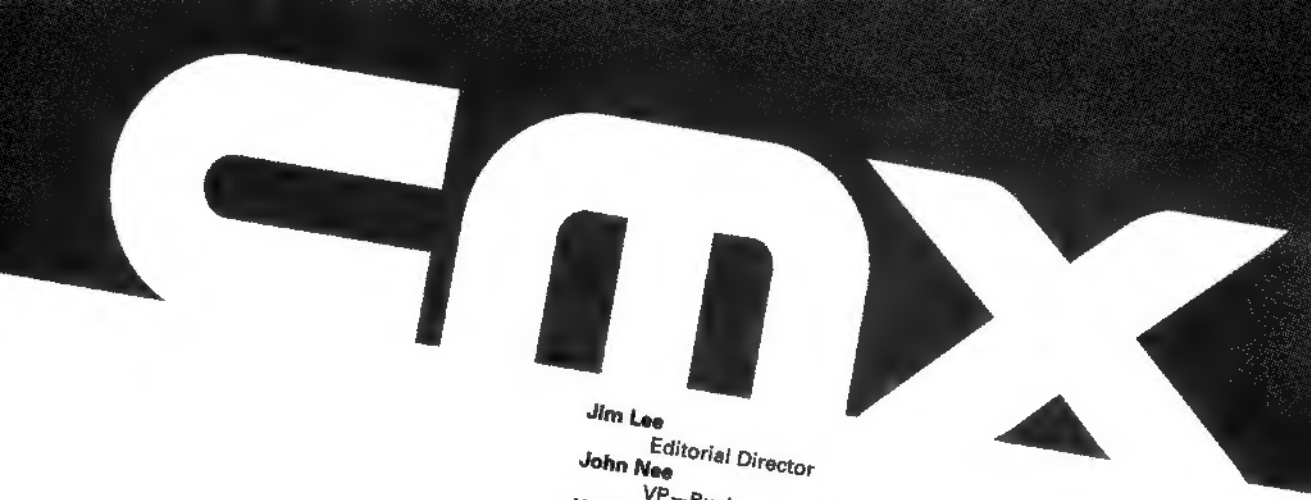

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